

THE TIMES

No. 66,049

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997



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TODAY

10P

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TODAY

10P

Apology over Formula One fiasco

Blair promises tough rules on party funding

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR today follows up a public apology for his handling of the Formula One debacle with the promise of a swift shake-up of the political funding system designed to give Britain a "healthier democracy".

After going on television yesterday to "take full responsibility" for an affair that has led to the worst crisis of his premiership, Mr Blair today backs national limits on amounts spent by the parties, "modest" ceilings on individual and company donations, and the publication of the names of donors and the amounts they give.

The moves mark a sustained effort by Mr Blair to recover his moral authority in the country, which Labour clearly fears may have been undermined.

Writing in *The Times* Mr Blair says that, if necessary, he will legislate to force all parties to open up their books about future donations in order to ensure a "level playing field". He calls for the "toughest possible set of rules" about funding, and stringent measures to prevent loopholes and avoidance through a proper policing of the system. He even suggests that business funding might be ended altogether in his vision of a "completely new world of electoral finance".

Yesterday, obviously shaken by the affair, Mr Blair admitted he had failed to focus seriously enough on the issue and agreed that the way information had emerged in a piecemeal way was unsatisfactory.

He admitted that he was "hurt and upset" because he had not expected that people would "impute his motives". But he accepted that it had not been handled well

and he took full responsibility. However, Mr Blair remained unrepentant both about the decision to allow a longer exemption to Formula One for a European-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, and about his decision to meet Bernie Ecclestone, the boss of Formula One, on October 16 when the Government was considering ways of preventing the proposed ban damaging British sport.

It was a high-risk decision by Mr Blair to offer himself for an interview with John Humphrys on BBC's *On the Record* programme.

"We will learn the lessons. Out of the difficulties of the past week can come changes that make for a healthier democracy"

Tony Blair writes, page 22

It was driven by fears that his strong personal standing with the public, Labour's biggest asset, was in danger of being damaged as a result of the row.

Within Downing Street there is huge regret that all the facts surrounding the Ecclestone donation, and the decision to turn down further gifts, were not released earlier, as some of Mr Blair's most senior aides had recommended.

Mr Blair admitted yesterday: "It should not have come out in dribs and drabs and we should have focused on this earlier... I am sorry about this issue. I should have

realised it was going to blow up into this kind of importance but I have honestly done what I thought was best for the country all the way through."

There were also clear indications last night that the policy which has caused all the trouble could still be changed. Mr Blair made plain that the outcome on the tobacco ban would be decided in negotiations with the European Union, and there were hints that the proposed ten-year exemption for Formula One could eventually be lowered.

In spite of a robust performance, in which he emphasised time and again that he would never change a policy purely because a Labour Party donor would benefit, the Prime Minister failed to clear away all the confusion and doubts that have surrounded the saga.

In the interview Mr Blair said for the first time that he had decided not to accept a further donation from Mr Ecclestone, on top of the £1 million he had given in January, as soon as the Government decided that it would push for an exemption for Formula One.

He also admitted that he wrote to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, the day after the Ecclestone meeting saying that the position of sport and particularly Formula One would have to be protected. But he said that there was no conflict of interest at that time because the Government had not decided on the exemptions.

Mr Blair also said he was ready to publish the names of all Labour donors since 1992, provided the Conservatives did the same.

BBC interview, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 22

Kate Bushell: popular, talented and lively churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music

Murdered girl, 14, found in field by her father

By Simon de Bruxelles

A FATHER found his 14-year-old daughter murdered in a field after she failed to return from walking a neighbour's dog.

Kate Bushell had been killed with a sharp instrument, probably a knife, and may have been sexually assaulted, the police said yesterday. The girl, described as "popular, talented and lively" by her headmaster, took the Jack Russell for an early evening walk near her home on the outskirts of Exeter on Saturday.

Her parents raised the alarm when she failed to return by nightfall. Jeremy Bushell was showing a policeman his daughter's likely route down a muddy lane 300 yards from their home when he found the fully clothed body in the field near a stile. A Home Office pathologist was last night trying to establish whether the schoolgirl had been sexually assaulted.

Detective Superintendent Michael Stephens, who is heading the inquiry, told a news conference: "This was a murder of a young innocent girl who was brutally killed just outside a residential area on the outskirts of Exeter."

Mr Stephens described Kate as a churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music. She played the piano, clarinet and saxophone and was a keen basketball player. She left home at 4.30pm, just as it was beginning to get dark, wearing a turquoise green kagoule and dark trousers and said she would be out no more than 20 minutes. It was the first time she had taken the dog out. Her parents telephoned the police at 6.44pm. At 7.35pm her father found the body with the dog near by.

Walk to death, page 3

Compensation for workers

The Government will today admit that Britain broke European law on workers' rights for more than a decade, paving the way for millions of pounds in compensation.

Public sector workers suffered sweeping cuts in pay and benefits when their jobs were transferred to the private sector in the 1980s. Page 22

Henman's title

Tim Henman eased to victory at the national championships in Telford, while Pete Sampras confirmed his continuing domination of the world game. Page 28

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Blair insists that Ecclestone gift had no influence

By Nicholas Watt
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BLAIR'S WORDS OF EXPLANATION

THE Prime Minister yesterday vigorously defended his decision to exempt Formula One from a ban on tobacco advertising and insisted that he had not been swayed by the donation by Bernie Ecclestone of £1 million to the Labour Party.

In an interview for BBC's *On the Record*, Tony Blair emphasised that he had taken swift action to avoid any conflict of interest. Mr Blair insisted that he had done nothing wrong in meeting Mr Ecclestone, the vice-president of the Fédération Internationale d'Automobile, on October 16, a few weeks before he decided to exempt Formula One from the ban: and he took the extraordinary step of agreeing to publish the notes of the meeting.

Mr Ecclestone donated £1 million to the party before the general election, and Mr Blair said that he had made a "firm commitment" to make further donations.

The Prime Minister said: "We were concerned to make sure that we didn't end up in the situation where we lost Formula One... [But] We never discussed an exemption of Formula One." At the time of the meeting Mr Blair was looking at options other than exempting Formula One.

Mr Blair pointed out that Mr Ecclestone had held discussions with other European Union leaders. "What would be odd, particularly after he had seen other heads of government — that because he had been a donor we refuse to see him... I had absolutely no intention of changing the policy because of the interests of Bernie Ecclestone."

Mr Blair agreed to publish notes of the meeting, made by an official, to prove that it had not influenced policy. He said: "He did not make it into a

On meeting Ecclestone
"I think it would have been bizarre if the bloke had been in a worse position as a result of donating to the Labour Party. I had absolutely no intention whatever of changing the policy because of the interests of Bernie Ecclestone."

On further donations
"Though we thought there had been a firm commitment to further donations to Labour back in May... no money had been received or paid over and I had then rescinded, as it were, the offer, so it couldn't have had any possible impact."

On disclosure
"I am perfectly happy to disclose the names of donors."

On honesty
"I think most people who have dealt with me think I'm a pretty straight sort of guy — and I am."

formal minute because there was no decision taken at that meeting and nothing actually new was said really."

In the week beginning November 3, the Government decided to exempt Formula One from a proposed EU ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship. As soon as the Government informed the European Commission of its decision, Mr Blair acted to prevent a conflict of interest.

He told the BBC: "At that point in time, I said — of course we can't accept any further donations from Mr Ecclestone. Before any journalists had been in touch with us we had told Mr Eccle-

stone's people we could not accept any further donations."

Mr Blair decided that Labour should write to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog, to seek his advice about what the party should do with Mr Ecclestone's original donation. The Prime Minister said: "We got his advice back on Monday [November 10]. We published that advice and we followed it to the letter."

Conservatives criticised Mr Blair after he failed to mention the possibility of a second donation in the Commons last week. Mr Blair insisted he had not misled the House. He said that as no further money had been received, and he had decided that none would be accepted, "it couldn't have had any possible impact."

Mr Blair said he was "perfectly happy to disclose the names of donors" immediately, "going back from 1992, provided that it is not just Labour that has to do this but the other parties too."

The Prime Minister said that individual donations could be limited. "You could say, if you wanted, that it was a £5,000 limit. I'm not committing myself to that. If Sir Patrick says to recommend that, we would be happy."

He added: "If you are going to have no state funding, but private donations, I can't see how it's going to be possible to raise any money if whenever a business could possibly be affected by any aspect of policy you then say you can't accept a donation. It's a point of principle we need to decide."

Towards the end of the interview, Mr Blair said that he had not lost the trust of the electorate: "I hope that people know me well enough to realise I would never do anything to harm the country or anything improper. I think most people who have dealt with me think I'm a pretty straight sort of guy and I am."



Blair looks pointedly at Humphrys...



... as his eyes seem to bulge angrily...



... we notice face powder for the first time

The honeymoon is over despite effort to make up

THIS Prime Minister has never looked so downright cross. His frustration argued at the same time for innocence, yet loss of control. The sweaty lip, the flowering eyeballs, the worn, strained and scratchy look, and the impression of a touch too much make-up may stay in viewers' minds long after the arguments are over.

A relaxed John Humphrys, fingering his chin coolly, caused the Prime Minister to appear rattled and angry, and say nothing very much. The credit Mr Blair had bought by volunteering this interview he spent through an appearance of being cornered. Within months, few outside the world of political journalism will remember much of what Humphrys asked or Blair replied. Instead, they will remember the look and sound of an embattled premier; they will remember the way his eyes seemed to bulge angrily, just as Margaret Thatcher's used to; they will remember noticing face powder for the first time; and they may remember a moment when the Prime Minister seemed close to losing his rag as he told Humphrys, with the implied menace of an over-weening head prefect, to "spit it out" and stop hiding his own opinions behind those of others.

I felt some sympathy for Mr Blair. Time and again politicians are reminded (John Major often was — to no effect) that however peeved you feel, it never helps to sound peeved. Blair looked and sounded utterly exasperated. It could be righteous indignation that makes him so, but the impression was of impotent fury — a loss of control of events. In a Prime Minister this does not do, and in Tony Blair we have hardly seen it before.

"Do you regret that?" asked Humphrys. "I explain it," shot Blair, with an air of irritated rationality. "But you're still not saying 'I got things wrong'." The Prime Minister's face looked like

thunder. Under pressure, Mr Blair sends confusing signals. His performance remains fairly controlled. It was notable that at awkward moments he was struggling with a desire to look down at the table rather than up at his interviewer, but determined to gaze Humphrys in the eye at key points, which he did in an almost studied way. One was reminded of a drama school graduate or a Dale Carnegie course in making friends and influencing people.

Yet, despite iron self-possession and a beautiful suit, an impression persists of Mr Blair's being in some way adrift, awaiting instructions. Here was a Bertie Wooster, seriously in the soup, screaming silently for his Jeeves.

As we watched Mr Blair before Sunday lunch, and recalled Rory Bremner's caricature of the evening before of a cocky and over-wired marionette, Bremner never looked crueler. The Prime Minister's penultimate line, rang true for me. He would never, he said, do anything he believed wrong for the country. Watching him as he spoke, few will have felt they were looking at a crook.

But his final line was less convincing. "The country's got to look at me and, in a sense, get to decide whether the person they believed in is the same person they've got now." It was unwise to ask viewers to make that comparison. Even his supporters may have felt they had just watched a man different in many ways from the Tony Blair who first took over the Labour Party. He seemed to have lost authority. His plea that we trust him carried the echo of a husband accused of infidelity, assuring his wife she is looking at the same man as the one who proposed to her and carried her over the threshold; nothing has changed. But of course, everything has. These melancholy exchanges do take place, once the honeymoon is over.

MATTHEW PARRIS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prudential sorry for pensions scandal

Sir Peter Davis, head of Prudential Corporation, has apologised publicly for the pensions mis-selling scandal, under which about half a million people were wrongly advised to leave occupational schemes in favour of high-charging personal pensions.

Sir Peter, who heads the Government's Welfare to Work programme, said he was "ashamed" at his firm's role in the debacle. Speaking on BBC's *The Money Programme*, he said: "We're doing everything we can to deal with it as quickly as we can."

Warning on the Hamilton verdict

Anthony King, Professor of Government at the University of Essex and a founding member of the Nolan committee, says in a letter to *The Times* today that the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee has left the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in an "ambiguous and unsatisfactory position" following its decision on Neil Hamilton.

Letters, page 23

Lottery cash to buy sail ships

Two deep-sea tall ships, which will enable double the present number of young people to test their skills on a traditional sailing ship, are to be bought with the help of National Lottery cash.

The Sail Training Association is to fit out the two steel hulls in British boatyards to a British design at a cost of £10 million, £3.5 million of which has been provided by lottery funds.

Police expert in guns inquiry

A police gun expert has been suspended during an inquiry into his own claims for compensation under the legislation to outlaw handguns. South Yorkshire Police are investigating claims made by DC Will Lander, who supervised the force's collection of 2,000 full-bore weapons and advised the Home Office and other forces on firearms issues, over his personal collection of 10 firearms.

Attack victim left for two days

A burglary victim was attacked with an axe, bound and left bleeding in his home for two days before a visitor found him. The victim was last night recovering in hospital with serious injuries as detectives began to hunt the masked intruder who confronted him at his flat in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, last week. Police want to trace a woman who sold a number of CDs at a shop near the victim's home.

Centre to combat antiquity looting

A research centre to combat the trade in illicit antiquities looted from archaeological sites will be launched in London tomorrow. It will be led by Professor Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorpe, director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge University. The new centre says the real value of artifacts is destroyed once they are removed from their archaeological context.

Hague seeks Branson knighthood

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON, who last week publicly criticised Tony Blair's decision to exempt Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban, is being recommended for a knighthood by William Hague.

The head of the Virgin empire has met Mr Hague only once, at the formal handover of Hong Kong to China, and has become firmly identified with the Blair administration. The Tory leadership refused to comment last night on a letter which Mr Hague has sent to Downing Street urging a knighthood for Mr Branson. The Tory leader has also recommended Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays

Bank, who is also regarded as a supporter of the new Government. The Tories dismissed as speculation the idea that Mr Hague has also recommended Bernie Ecclestone for a knighthood.

Mr Branson declined to discuss the prospect of being knighted as Sir Richard. "I don't know anything about this," he said last night. Friends said it was by no means certain that he would accept a knighthood if one was offered.

Mr Branson, who has been approached unsuccessfully by the big political parties for donations, will continue to work with the Government to try to find alternative forms of sponsorship for sport. In a letter to *The Independent* today, Mr Branson speaks of his pleasure at attending a government conference three months ago

where ministers pledged to ban all sponsorship of sport by tobacco companies within three years. "The week before last I was telephoned in the United States by an embarrassed minister, to be told that Formula One would be excluded. I pointed out that I felt bitterly disappointed as I was sure the rest of the country would. That to treat a rich sport paying drivers £5 million a year differently from sports like cricket, fishing or snooker just did not stack up."

Mr Branson scorned the argument that up to 50,000 jobs would be lost if Formula One had not been excluded: "They were breaking their election pledges and letting millions of young non-smokers down. I knew most of the teams well and they were committed to England."

Banks confident of ban on hunting

By Polly Newton
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BANKS, the Sports Minister, yesterday gave the clearest signal yet that hunting may be outlawed before the next election. Mr Banks, a long-time animal welfare campaigner, said the Government had already indicated that it would allow time during this Parliament for anti-hunting legislation.

Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost, Mr Banks said: "I'm confident that we're actually going to get it through in the course of this Parlia-

ment... as long as we get it through in this Parliament I'm going to be happy."

His comments follow the Government's decision not to allocate time during this Parliamentary session — which ends in the autumn of 1998 — for the passage of a Private Member's Bill that would ban hunting with hounds.

Ministers feared that it would provoke lengthy arguments in the House of Lords, allowing Conservative peers to delay the passage of key Government legislation including Bills to create the Scottish Parliament and the

Welsh Assembly. However, their decision not to back the Bill is known to have angered some of those Labour MPs who oppose hunting, and Downing Street has not discouraged speculation that time might be found for anti-hunting legislation.

Mr Banks said that he would support the Bill, which has been put forward by the Labour MP for Worcester, Michael Foster. It has its second reading in the Commons on November 28. "I think we'll get a massive majority in the House of Commons and I think that

party managers can then draw their own conclusions from that subsequently."

One possibility is that the Government will allow time for another Private Member's Bill after it has abolished the voting rights of hereditary peers. Or it might propose a ban on hunting as a single clause in a Government Bill that is guaranteed cross-party support.

Labour's election manifesto committed the party to allowing its MPs a free vote on hunting but stopped short of promising Parliamentary time for legislation.

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

HOME NEWS 3

Last walk of a friendly neighbour

Helpful pupil Kate was killed doing a good turn

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

DARKNESS was beginning to fall as Kate Bushell put on her turquoise cagoule and told her parents she was going out for no more than 20 minutes to walk the neighbour's Jack Russell, Gemma.

She had volunteered so that the neighbours could go away for the weekend, a gesture friends said was typical of Kate who would go out of her way to help anyone. The route she took along Exwick Lane divides the private estate of modern red-brick boxes from the unspoilt countryside beyond.

Exwick is a sprawling suburb which meanders up the hillside on the other side of the river and railway line from Exeter city centre. At 4.30 on Saturday evening it would still have been possible to look out over the rooftops to the 11th-century cathedral of St Peter's.

When their daughter did not return Kate's parents Jeremy, 44, and Susan, 41, became concerned. The murder team of 30 officers, who yesterday sealed off the lane where the body was found and began house to house inquiries, have little to go on. They do not know whether Kate's killer was lying in wait for a victim, had followed her from



Maddern: he said Kate was a model pupil

home or may even have arranged to meet her in the unlit lane.

The headteacher of St Thomas's High School where Kate was a "model" pupil said it had been the 14-year-old's ultimate ambition to go to Oxford. Steve Maddern said: "Kate Bushell certainly had the academic ability. She was a popular, talented and lively girl, and her murder hits at the core of our school."

More immediately, she had her debut with the school's basketball team to look forward to this week. She was also a member of the school

orchestra. Mr Maddern met Kate's parents yesterday afternoon. He described them as "distraught" and said: "One thing Kate's mother said to me was that you never had to remind her to do her homework. In fact she had done half of her weekend's homework before taking the dog for a walk."

A lone bouquet was tied to the gates of the 1,200 pupil high school with the words "Why? You will always be missed" written on a note attached to it.

Mr Maddern said: "Kate had a promising future and was a keen musician. She had a ready smile and was fun to be with, she was intelligent, co-operative and mature in her outlook. She was everything you could hope for in a student. Her loss will be felt throughout the school and we are making special assembly and counselling arrangements tomorrow to help students and staff come to terms with this dreadful tragedy."

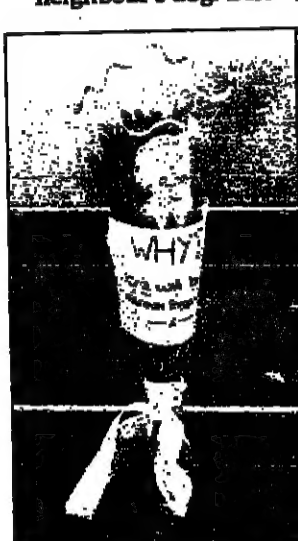
"Students and staff will be shocked and numb by this awful news and our hearts go out to Kate's family and friends who will be devastated by the loss of one so young who had everything to live for. We can only hope that the police catch whoever is responsible for this sickening crime as quickly as possible."

Prayers were said for her at the Sunday morning service held by the evangelical Isca Fellowship where the Bushell family worship. Church elder Stephen Randall said: "Kate was the least likely girl I can imagine this happening to. Our reaction is one of pure horror." Mr Randall, 36, described how Kate was involved in raising funds for Bosnian charities and was a regular helper at the church which meets in a local school.

The family moved to their modern, three-bedroom detached home in Exwick seven years ago. Mr Bushell is believed to have taken early retirement from his job with Devon county council's education department last year to devote his time to charitable work in Bosnia. Another neighbour said he had recently returned from an aid trip to the Balkans. By an unlikely



Police standing guard at the lane in Exwick, where Kate Bushell, 14, was found murdered after walking a neighbour's dog. Below, flowers left at the scene, and the house to which the Bushells moved seven years ago



coincidence, the murder victim Lin Russell, who was killed in a frenzied hammer attack in Kent 18 months ago, lived in the same street when her husband, Shaun, was a lecturer at the university in the mid-1970s.

Many people walk their dogs in the same narrow lane which passes close to the Guide Dogs for the Blind's

national training centre at Cleve House.

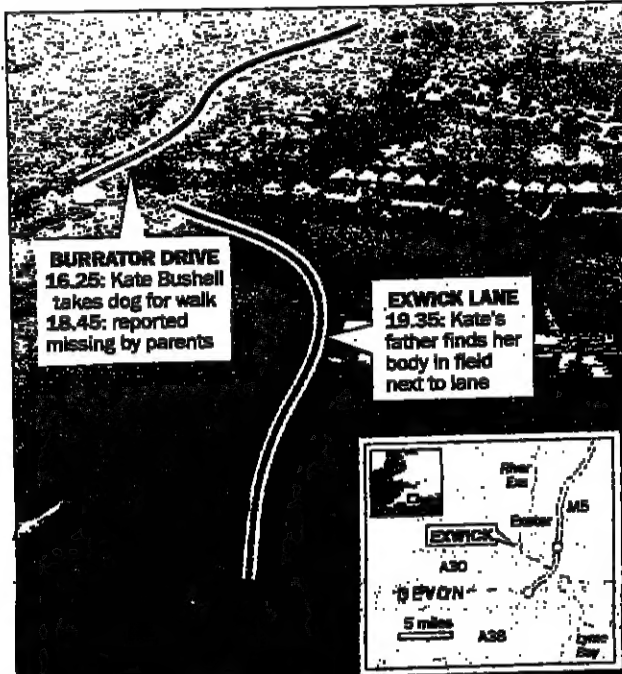
Emma Browne, aged 14, one of Kate's best friends, laid flowers close to the spot where she was killed. She said: "I don't know how anyone could do something like this to Kate. She wouldn't harm anyone. It is such a shame because she was so brainy and she would have got very good GCSEs."

She would always help others and never do anything to put anyone else down. There have been rumours going around about the lane where she was killed. I would not have gone up there before this happened and I certainly will not do so now."

Other local youngsters said there had been rumours about people being chased down the

narrow lane last year and they had stayed away from it.

Hill Daniel, a neighbour, said: "I did not know the girl very well but I did see her out walking a friend's dog while I was walking my spaniel. The lane where she was killed is very popular with dog walkers and leads down past the Blind Dog centre towards open fields."



Mother loses children on 'technicality'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has been ordered to uproot her children and take them to her estranged husband in France after he succeeded in using the Hague Convention on child abduction to secure their return. The children, aged 12 and 9, had only lived for nine months of their lives in France.

Hélène Lawrence left Newhaven on Friday to meet a High Court deadline for her to comply with the custody order obtained by her husband.

Normally the Hague Convention on child abduction is used in "tug of love" cases where one parent illegally seizes children from the other and absconds from their country of residence.

This order was granted to British-born David Lawrence, an electrical engineer living near Paris, after the couple decided to move to France last autumn with their two children, Edward, 12, and Gabrielle, 9. Nine months later, in July, the relationship broke down and Mrs Lawrence, 45, who has lived in Britain for 20 years although she is French-born, returned to her home in Hampshire. Her husband successfully

made an application under the Hague Convention, although normally a custody order would not be granted where children had been resident in the country from which they had been removed for less than a year.

Mrs Lawrence said yesterday that the children were devastated at having to leave school and their friends again. She is in touch with Reunite, the national council for abducted children, which is concerned that she fell foul of a legal technicality because she did not go to a solicitor with expertise in child abduction law. Denise Carter, the director, said: "Our view is that the court should never have granted this application. It should have looked more carefully at the case."

"These children had only been in France for nine months and therefore it is questionable whether it could not really be called their country of habitual residence." But, because Mrs Lawrence had agreed willingly to follow her husband to France, that had counted against her in determining the children's habitual residence.

Missing girl, 13, may be on her way to Spain

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AIRPORTS and ports were put on alert yesterday for a 13-year-old girl believed to have run off with a customer she met at her mother's bar on the Costa del Sol.

Police fear Sally Claydon secretly kept in touch with the 47-year-old man known as Bruce after returning to her home in Harlow, Essex, from Fuengirola earlier this month. The blonde teenager vanished with her passport and summer clothes on Saturday.

Sergeant Karen Brimston, of Essex Police, said Sally looked mature for her years and

could be travelling in a white Transit van. "The indications are that she is leaving the country, possibly heading back to Spain," she said.

Sally's mother, Sharon Walsh, who ran the Captain Hook bar in Fuengirola before returning to Britain on November 3, is said to be distraught. Her daughter had met "Bruce" often in the bar but, unknown to her, had kept in touch after they returned to Britain on the same ferry.

She discovered the relationship only when she found her missing on Saturday night and could not find her despite numerous telephone calls to friends. Sergeant Brimston said that, although Sally had pretended to her mother that she had hated Spain, she told schoolfriends that she had had a wonderful time.

"Pieces of the jigsaw are all fitting together. It has all been planned," she said. "She apparently changed a lot in Spain. She's only taken the more adult clothes, like skimpy dresses, and left her more childish things behind. She has told her schoolfriends she is not a schoolgirl anymore and is more like 21."



Sally Claydon: may be headed for Fuengirola

Italian taste for spice turns sour

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY, which invariably gives a warm welcome to British pop groups, should have been the place where the Spice Girls halted the sudden downward spiral of Girl Power and relaunched themselves on a wave of adoration. It didn't quite work out that way.

Instead, Italians gave them the thumbs down at the weekend, comparing them unfavourably to Oasis — "the real voice of today's neo-pop, not a passing synthetic creation" — who were rapturously received in Bologna and who are eagerly awaited today in Milan.

To make matters worse the girls' hotel on the Via Veneto was abuzz with rumours — denied all round — that Emma Bunton (Baby Spice), the alleged cause of the band's troubles because of her "relationship" with Simon Fuller,

their sacked manager, had chosen Rome to seal the band's demise by absconding with him. Hotel staff confirmed that Bunton had left the building "before dawn" for "a rendezvous", and had missed breakfast.

By coincidence — or not, since he presumably knew their European tour schedule by heart — Rome was where Mr Fuller took refuge after being fired.

But Bunton returned and appeared with the other four on television yesterday afternoon. Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) pointedly told the audience on the afternoon chat show *Domenica In* (Sunday In): "We are all together." But they performed only one song and left before the bemused presenter could ask them anything. He was left gazing at their departing backs

as they called "Arrivederci" over their shoulders.

Only a month ago, the Italians were hailing the Spice Girls — along with the England football team — as the vanguard of Tony Blair's Britain. But the gloss appears to have worn off. "Not so spicy after all," said the headline in *La Repubblica* yesterday. "Spice Girls land in a desert of fans," declared *Il Messaggero*.

The contrast with Oasis could hardly have been sharper. "The difference is obvious," said *Corriere della Sera*. "Oasis are manipulated, like all pop groups, but they are original and have natural talent. The Spice Girls are merely a synthetic creation, dreamed up in a laboratory, with a limited life expectancy."

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There are those who would argue that this is no more than a fox deserves.

After all, they say, foxes are themselves killers and need to be controlled.

Whilst it's true that foxes do occasionally take lambs, many of these are likely to be already dead.

(20% of lambs born each year die from hypothermia, malnutrition or disease, or are

stillborn.) And the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food estimates the number of lambs taken by foxes to be not significant.

The notion that hunting is necessary to control the fox population is equally unfounded.

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November 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in their constituencies.

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Foxhunting is cruel and unnecessary.

It's about time we made it illegal.



Ban hunting with dogs.

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

Royal Train could be heading for the sidings

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Royal Train could be scrapped as part of a radical reform of the monarchy, according to one of the Queen's closest aides.

The train was already under threat from MPs after official figures showed it had cost taxpayers £12.3 million in five years, an average of £67,000 for each of its 183 journeys.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales has accelerated the reform of the monarchy, with a slimmed-down, cheaper version of the Royal Family now likely, says Simon Gimson, who left his post as head of the Palace Policy Unit a fortnight ago.

Abolition is ruled out, and so is skipping a generation to let Prince William take the crown instead of the Prince of Wales. But the Royal Family will be slimmed down naturally, he says. "We have a lot of active members of the Royal Family at the moment," Mr Gimson, speaking with the consent of the Palace, tells tonight's *Panorama* on BBC1. "There are a good dozen and I think over time, if one looks

BUTLER HELPS TO CHOOSE MEMORIAL

The butler who served Diana, Princess of Wales for nine years and was honoured by the Queen for his services last week, is to help decide on a fitting memorial to his former employer (Peter Foster writes). Paul Burrell, 39, became a confidant of the late Princess during his time at Kensington Palace. Downing Street has confirmed that Mr Burrell, awarded the Royal Victoria

an Medal on the nomination of the Princess, will sit on a government committee of ten members, to be chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Mr Brown is expected to announce the full list of members later this week. Names linked to the committee include Earl Spencer and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, Baroness Chalker and Lord Attenborough.

Leading article, page 23

in a bald, actuarial way at it, members of the Royal Family who are currently very active are going to get old ... If you look at the next generation coming through, there are far fewer who will be there to do public engagements in ten or 15 years."

Mr Gimson says the Princess's death has speeded reform. "The organisation probably needs to move down that track a little bit more rapidly than it has been until now," he says. "The Palace is

looking very carefully at specific changes, at radical changes, at gentle changes."

Mr Gimson confirms that the Palace is considering scrapping the Royal Train. He tells the programme: "Yes, and there may be decisions on that."

The 150-year-old train, run by a private American firm, Wisconsin Railways, has bullet-proof windows and steel-plated sides. Its top speed is 100mph, slower than the InterCity trains which the

Queen is said to favour. It has 14 coaches, but rarely are they all used.

Mr Gimson, who had been Special Assistant to the Queen's Private Secretary Sir Robert Fellowes, admits the Palace was concerned about public reaction in the week after the Princess's death. "We weren't sure which way the mood was going to swing," he says. "I think there was some hostility there originally."

He denies that the Royal Family failed to capture the public mood. "What they perhaps don't do is foghorn, is trumpet their emotions, they simply keep it to themselves and then at an appropriate time express themselves."

The Palace acknowledged the public mood for change and reform, he says. "People have been demanding a slimmed-down monarchy for a long time. It's going to happen inevitably." Mr Gimson adds that the Prince of Wales has for some time been taking on greater responsibility and says of the idea of skipping a generation to favour Prince William: "It isn't going to happen."



The Prince of Wales and Lady Tryon at a charity polo match in July 1991

Lady Tryon died after skin graft operation

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

LADY TRYON, described by the Prince of Wales as "the only woman who really understands me", died after a skin graft. It was disclosed yesterday.

She developed blood poisoning after the minor operation last week to treat bed sores. Lady Tryon, 49, nicknamed Kanga by the Prince when he met her in Australia, was confined to a wheelchair last year after becoming paralysed from the waist down when she fell from the first-floor window of a private health clinic.

She died in the intensive care unit of the London Clinic. With her were her elder daughter, Zoe, who had flown from Australia, and her brother, Derek Harper, Lord Tryon — they married in 1973 — had filed for divorce in September on the ground that she caused him a stress-related illness.

Obituary, page 25

Anniversary is a testing time for the Queen

By ALAN HAMILTON

THIS week's golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh looks like turning into a major national event, despite the couple's own wish that it be an essentially family affair. Several planned public appearances will be an opportunity to test public reaction to the monarchy after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when the Queen was criticised for her decision to remain at Balmoral while London saw an unprecedented outpouring of public grief.

Official celebrations begin tomorrow, when the Queen and the Duke travel to the City of London for a Guildhall lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor. In the evening, the couple and most of the remaining crowned heads of Europe will attend a gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall, masterminded by Prince Edward.

Jan Holm, Sir Donald Sinden and Dame Diana Rigg will perform extracts from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets to tell a story of courtship and marriage. Musical performances will range from John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine to the London Philharmonic Orchestra and operatic

soloists. The programme includes the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tonight from West Side Story* and the love duet from Verdi's *Otello*.

On Thursday, the actual anniversary, the Queen and Prince will attend a televised thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, where they were married. Afterwards, they are expected to go on a walkabout in Parliament Square around midday, before being greeted at 10 Downing Street by the Prime Minister and his wife. The four will then walk across Whitehall to Inigo Jones's Banqueting House, the last remaining vestige of the old royal palace of Whitehall, for a lunch hosted by the Government, at which most members of the Cabinet are expected to attend.

In the evening, the royal couple will finally achieve some degree of privacy, when they attend a ball in the newly restored apartments of Windsor Castle for themselves, their family, their guests and friends. For the Queen, the completion of fire damage repair to her favourite official residence is the best anniversary gift she could have wished for.

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Gulf War pesticides linked to illness

NEW evidence has emerged that exposure to toxic pesticides in the Gulf War may be directly linked to the illnesses suffered by veterans of the conflict over the last six years. Fresh research into the health hazards arising from exposure to organophosphate pesticides has revealed that at least 10 per cent of people exposed over a period of time to the pesticides developed a disorder that led to brain damage.

The research, carried out by

Exposure to sprays could lead to brain damage, writes Michael Evans

Robert Davies, a consultant psychiatrist and a member of the Organophosphate Scientific Forum, will strengthen demands for compensation from the 1,300 Gulf War veterans who have been given official diagnoses of a range of illnesses, including chronic fatigue, skin disorders, muscular pains and shortness of breath.

Although government stud-

ies have so far failed to back the veterans' claims that they are suffering from a unique Gulf War syndrome, one of the official research programmes is currently examining the possible risks from organophosphate poisoning.

Organophosphate pesticide spraying of British tents in Saudi Arabia was carried out on a comprehensive scale, although it took two years for

the Conservative Government to announce this fact in the Commons, after Ministry of Defence officials incorrectly told ministers that the use of such toxic insecticides was only limited.

Dr Davies, consultant at a psychiatric hospital in Taunton, undertook three studies over 18 months, examining about 450 people who claimed to have suffered from organo-

phosphate pesticide exposure, including Gulf War soldiers, farmers and horticultural workers.

In a scientific paper he has sent to the Department of Health and the *Lancet*, Dr Davies has renamed the syndrome Chronic OP-Induced Neuropsychiatric Disorder. He said he and a colleague, Ghose Ahmed, also a consultant psychiatrist, found the

causal link between organophosphates (OP) and Gulf War syndrome. "Victims all describe the same symptoms, unlike any encountered in general psychiatry before," he said, adding: "It's not depression or anxiety, it's a pattern of brain, nerve and muscle damage which is expressed in mood instability. I cannot yet say if the damage is permanent but my impression is that it is."

Among the symptoms identified by Dr Davies were flu-like illness, personality change, characterised by depression and irritability, impulsive suicidal thinking and language disorder. He said: "The work establishes that these people's symptoms have definitely been caused by OP. There is no doubt, no stronger scientific proof could be needed."

Dr Davies criticised the official study into the health risks of OP, now being carried out by the Institute of Occupational Health in Edinburgh. He said: "It will largely ignore the psychological damage of exposure to the chemical. That study is now very limited. In my view it was deliberately rigged to avoid looking at psychiatric illnesses because of the compensation implications."

River guardians call for ban on sheep dips

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent



De Ramsey: concerns

A BAN on a new generation of sheep dips is being demanded by anglers, landowners and salmon experts amid claims that the chemicals are killing rivers. Tiny amounts of the chemicals — introduced as alternatives to dips which were linked with ill health in farmers — can eradicate the insects and invertebrate life in a water course, studies have found.

Critics fear the spread of the dips, called synthetic pyrethroids, threaten the rivers in Scotland, the North West, Wales and the South West. In Cumbria, the worst-hit county, invertebrate life has been killed in up to 100 miles of water, including the River Eden, after a series of pollution incidents in recent months.

James Carr, a vice-chairman of the

Salmon and Trout Association and chairman of the Environment Agency's regional advisory committee, said yesterday that the Eden was one of Britain's finest salmon and trout rivers. It is a proposed Special Area of Conservation under the European Species and Habitats Directive because of its fish life.

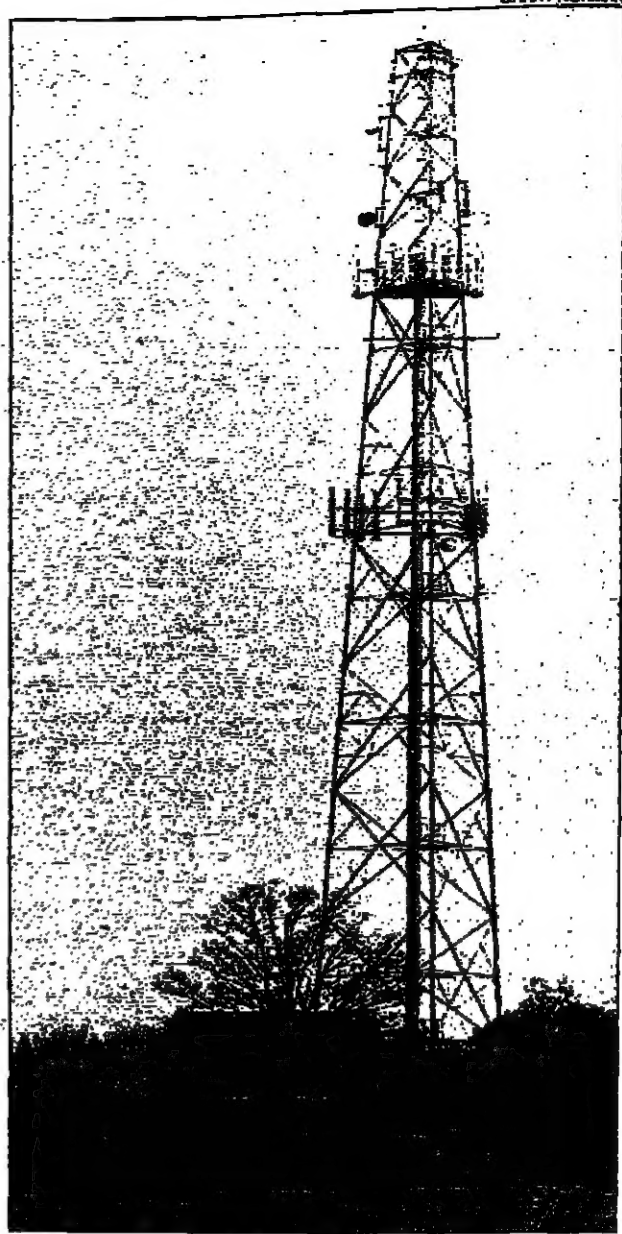
"The problem with these new products is that they are particularly lethal. A teaspoon can kill hundreds of metres of river by killing aquatic insect life which is the vital component in the food chain for fish and other wildlife," he said. Mr Carr said the impact of the new chemicals was only just emerging.

The products, introduced around 18 months ago, are designed to replace

organophosphate sheep dips which have been blamed for a range of ailments among farmers. The new chemicals are less toxic to man. But critics claim the Government's Veterinary Medicines Directorate, under pressure to find alternatives to organophosphates, have failed to assess the wider environmental impact.

The Environment Agency said yesterday that it was visiting farmers to advise them about the dangers of the new dips to the environment. It will next week be issuing a "strong statement about sheep dips. We are very concerned."

Lord De Ramsey, the agency's chairman, is also expected to raise the matter with Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Secretary, in two weeks.



GRANT NORMAN

The radio mast brings in £33,000 a year in rent

Hundreds signal interest in mast

A 160ft radio mast, on the market at £160,000, has attracted more than 300 inquiries from potential buyers, (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Some of those showing an interest are refugees from the stock market who believe the narrow pole at Hill Farm Radio Station, near Fulbourn in Cambridgeshire, has a more stable future than the FTSE index.

The Government requires communications companies to share space on the masts to

avoid the countryside turning into a giant pincushion. The Hill Farm pole, annual rent £33,000, is already shared by half a dozen groups, including mobile telephone networks and paging organisations.

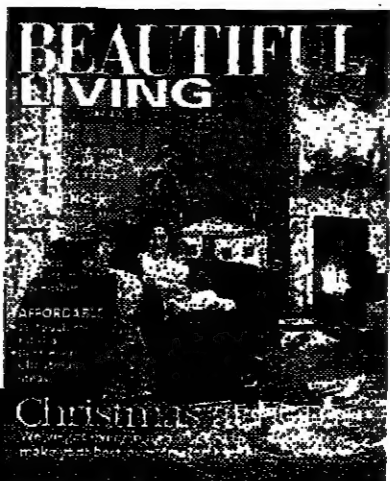
Leo Hickish, a partner in Strutt & Parker, the estate agents handling the sale, was surprised that a country pole was now as desirable as a country pile. "This is a novelty," he said. "It is of a par to the sale of big estates, when everything goes ballistic."



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Adams to visit No 10 as rebels defy peace

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

GERRY ADAMS, Sinn Féin's president, will shortly become the first Irish republican leader in three quarters of a century to visit Downing Street.

Sinn Féin officials said yesterday that a meeting between Mr Adams and Tony Blair was likely before Christmas. Less than seven years ago the IRA fired three mortars at No 10 during a meeting of John Major's Gulf War cabinet.

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, called such a meeting "distinctly premature" and a likely "propaganda coup for Sinn Féin-IRA". Unionists also expressed anger, but it could help Mr Adams at a time when disaffected republican hardliners are openly challenging his peace strategy. In a weekend telephone call to a New York radio station, one of the dissidents claimed that they would form a group this week to oppose the Sinn Féin and IRA leadership.

The sister of one of the most prominent of the ten republican hunger strikers who died in 1981 was expected to be named the group's spokeswoman. She lives with the former quartermaster-general who resigned from the IRA after unsuccessfully challenging the leadership.



Gerry Adams, under fire from hardliners

ing the leadership at a secret summit last month.

The caller claimed growing support for the rebellion. Sinn Féin and the IRA insist that a mere handful of dissidents are greatly exaggerating their own strength.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she did not believe either the ceasefire or the peace process were under threat, but security officials fear that the dissidents' appeal could grow unless the leadership can show dividends from its participation in the Stormont talks.

The Downing Street meeting would be one such dividend. Mr Blair met Mr Adams behind closed doors at Stormont last month, and is now meeting leaders of all the eight participating parties at Downing Street, but to invite Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, would still be a hugely symbolic gesture, conferring legitimacy on Sinn Féin.

The world's media would be able to film the two MPs entering No 10 and afterwards holding a press conference. The meeting would help to offset a likely delay until the new year of the Government's response to fresh evidence it received from the Irish Government earlier this year about the events of Bloody Sunday.

Last month, Labour sources said Dr Mowlam was "moving towards" a review and formal apology for the fatal shooting of 14 demonstrators by members of The Parachute Regiment in 1972. The Ministry of Defence is believed to be resisting any such move.

The Downing Street visit would also compensate for the almost certain rejection by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, of the renewed appeal by Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness for the use of Commons offices and facilities. They have both refused to swear allegiance to the Queen and take their seats.



A battle over the land: residents of Strathconon, whose activities were filmed for a year for the new fly-on-the-wall series

By Shirley English

Highlanders are landed with a starring role in real-life TV drama

The people of a Highland glen have found themselves starring in a real-life television soap opera which reveals the tensions between them and an absentee Danish laird. A *Glen for All Seasons* charts a year in the lives of a remarkably varied cast of characters whose common link is that they all live in Strathconon, 30 miles northwest of Inverness.

The six-part fly-on-the-wall series was shot between August 1996 and July 1997, and aims to provide an insight into a close-knit Highland community at a time when the modern ideas of its new landowner were claimed to be challenging the way of life.

The series began last night on Grampian and Scottish TV, and talks are going ahead for a possible nationwide screening on Channel 4. The setting of the sparsely populated 17-mile glen includes the breathtaking scenery of Scotland's second largest deer

forest. The producer, Ted Brocklebank of Greyfriars Productions, has been a visitor to the glen for the past 25 years. "For that reason I had the trust of a lot of people, people who are not normally very forthcoming and would not normally want to have cameras intruding into their community," he said. "As the series develops the ups and downs of what is happening in the glen emerge."

Less than 150 years ago, Strathconon had a Gaelic-speaking population of around 600 people, lots of sheep and a single laird. There are now less than 100

people, and the land is owned by numerous people from abroad. Mogens Johansen, a member of the Lego family, bought the 62,000-acre Strathconon Estate two years ago, and has introduced radical changes in land management with the support of Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government's conservation agency.

Deer have been dramatically culled, conifers cut down to be replaced by broadleaf trees, and the 1,000 sheep removed completely. Vermin such as foxes are left alone because of a belief that nature will find its own balance. The aim is to return Strathconon

to the Caledonian landscape of centuries ago. The changes have not been popular.

The removal of sheep has resulted in deer roaming from the hills down to the village and invading gardens. The reluctance to kill vermin such as fox has led to lamb losses in neighbouring farms. The culling of deer, while hardly affecting the headcount on Strathconon, has resulted in losses for neighbouring estates dependent on the herds for sport.

Murdoch Laing, a wealthy Canadian who runs nearby Scardroy estate along traditional hunting and shooting lines, has deep reservations,

as does Dennis MacLeod, a gold tycoon who lives at Scatwell Lodge in the glen. Mr MacLeod said: "We are all in favour of conserving the land, but it seems that the Danes' ideas preclude all economic activity, which could be divisive down the line."

Despite the serious undercurrents, *A Glen for All Seasons* has many lighter moments, featuring the Highland Games and a wild Christmas party, as well as a "memorable" pheasant shoot, according to the producer.

During the year, there were no births in the glen, and only one death, of Kenny Urquhart, who had lived in the glen all his life. The crew had filmed his reminiscences, but they could not find one useable take. Mr Brocklebank said: "We scoured half an hour of tape, but sadly couldn't find one coherent sentence, his accent was so strong."

TV listings, page 51

Blackmail bomber returns to terrorise shoppers

By Lin Jenkins

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's stores were yesterday warned to be on their guard after small firebombs were placed at three London branches. The attacks are believed to be the work of the "Mardi Gra" blackmail bomber.

Staff were told to be on the alert and security checks of car parks and rubbish bins were increased in the wake of the attacks on Saturday. The company said all its staff would be asked to maintain an increased level of vigilance, but declined to give precise details of the security measures being implemented.

Police believe the man who planted the devices is the same person who began terrorising Barclays Bank in 1994 and turned his attention to Sainsbury's in 1996, demanding he be paid £500,000.

The store said yesterday that it had not received any communication about the three devices found in South Ruislip, West Ealing and Greenford. Two of the devices went off. One man was treated in hospital for minor cuts and shock and a staff member suffered shock.

A spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are continuing to work closely with the police, for the safety of our customers and our staff is foremost in our minds."

In December 1994, the first six of 25 devices were sent to branches of Barclays Bank and were followed up with a blackmail demand. The bomber wrote to the *Daily Mail*: "Mardi Gra is the codename of a small group of Barclays Bank victims who are in the process of reversing the tide of fortune into their favour." He failed to respond to messages placed in the newspaper's personal columns.

The last attack was in Ealing, West London, in April 1996, when three people waiting at cash machines outside the branch were slightly hurt.

Three months later it emerged that the bomber had turned his attention to Sainsbury's. He threatened to bomb supermarkets unless he was paid a reported £500,000.

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Last days of Titanic in the lens of a Jesuit priest

AN IRISH Jesuit priest who photographed the last days of the passengers and crew of the Titanic has had his work compiled in a book for the first time.

Frank Browne boarded the liner for her maiden voyage at Southampton and sailed to Cherbourg and Queenstown — now Cobh — in Cork, where he disembarked. An avid photographer, he captured the liner's first days at sea in pictures. Most of his subjects drowned after the ship, en route to New York, hit an iceberg off Cape Race in the Atlantic on April 15, 1912. More than 1,500 people perished.

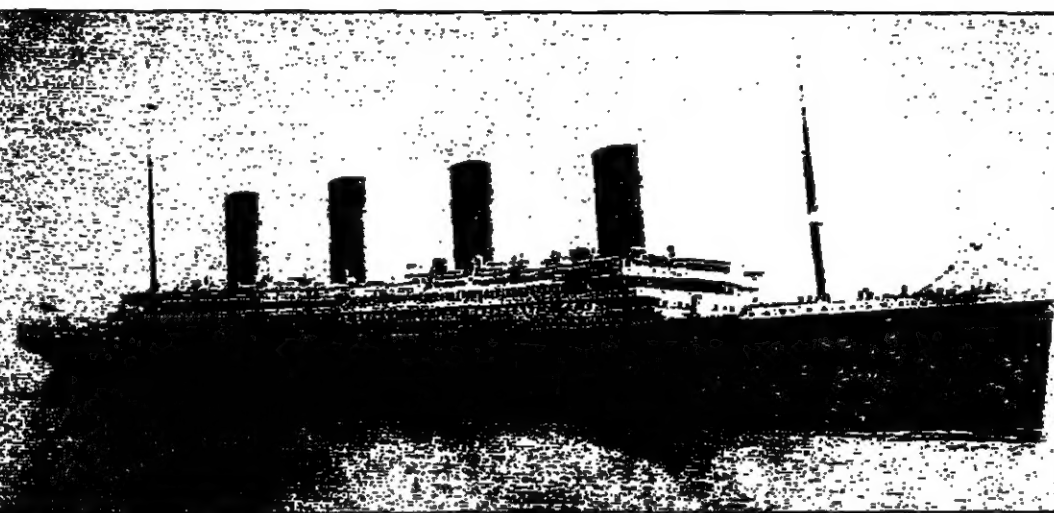
After the tragedy, the priest compiled an album of his photographs and memorabilia from the trip, bound it in leather and entrusted it to his friends in the Jesuit Order in Dublin. Estimated to be worth £2 million, the album has now been produced as a book, *Father Browne's Titanic Album*.

There are more than 30 black and white pictures taken on the ship, some grainy and scratched, that show its

Audrey Magee on a book of photographs taken on the fatal voyage by Father Frank Browne



Jack Phillips, the wireless operator on the left, was acclaimed as a hero for sticking to his post when the ship sank after leaving Queenstown



working and leisure life. Others depict the journey on the boat train from London to Southampton and the disembarkation at Cork.

The priest handwrote the captions: "The Titanic's first sunrise", "The children's playground, taken about mid-

day on the saloon deck", "The last glimpse of Capt Smith", and "Mr Farr, electrician, and Mr McGurk, gymnast, both lost".

Father Browne's photographs were widely used in newspapers of the time, and subsequently on anniversaries, and have been reprinted in several books about the liner. This is the first time, however, that they have been collected in a single published volume.

Robert Ballard, leader of the 1985 American expedition that found the Titanic 2½

miles below the surface, wrote the book's foreword. He describes Father Browne's pictures as "poignant reminders" of the vessel he saw under the Atlantic.

Father Browne, a contemporary of James Joyce who referred to him as "Mr

Browne, the Jesuit" in *Finnegans Wake*, developed a passion for photography after he was given a camera in 1897. He travelled widely, taking pictures in France, Italy, Britain, Ireland, Australia and South Africa. He was chaplain to the

Irish Guards, serving on the front in France and Flanders during the First World War. He was highly commended for his bravery by the French and Belgian authorities and received the MC and Bar from Britain. The Irish Guards in Wellington Barracks, London, have a leather-bound album of his photographs from the war, entitled *Watch on the Rhine*.

His work disappeared into obscurity until 1985, when Eddie O'Donnell, a fellow Jesuit, found 42,000 negatives in a trunk in the archives of the Jesuits' Dublin headquarters. A world tour of the priest's photographs is being prepared by Father O'Donnell, editor of the *Titanic* album. It will start in London in 1999.

"Ten years ago I would have said that the most newsworthy fact about Father Browne was that he sailed on the *Titanic*", Father O'Donnell said. "That is no longer the case. The most interesting fact now is that he is being recognised as one of the world's greatest photographers of all time."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cartoon censured over its violence

The children's cartoon *Reboot* was condemned for violence by the Independent Television Commission after an episode featured a zombie and a villain wielding a chainsaw.

It was a breach of the official programme code to show the episode on ITV as early as 4.40pm, the commission said, upholding complaints from 19 viewers that the violence in the episode *To Mend and Defend* was unacceptable and that the characters, from feature films and computer games, were inappropriate.

Helicopter crash

A pilot and four male passengers were injured when a helicopter crashed into a field in Danbury, Essex. One passenger suffered serious head injuries, the others whiplash injuries. They had taken the trip to celebrate a birthday.

Major note

John Major, the former Prime Minister, helped to launch *The Greatest British Album Of The Century — Britannia*, as a tribute to the Royal Yacht. Each copy sold will bring a donation to King George's Fund For Sailors.

Late opening

Seventeen million people in Britain shop at night, according to a survey carried out by Shell UK, which has 850 24-hour Select shops linked to its garages. The survey also found that five million people like to shop after 10pm.

999 victim

A pensioner died after he was struck by a police car which was answering a 999 call. James Morris, 68, was crossing a road in North Wingfield, Derbyshire. Police said that the car's siren and emergency lights were in use.

Coastguard cuts

The Government is to announce the closure of up to six coastguard stations today. The move has been caused by funding difficulties in the Coastguard Agency, which merges with the Marine Safety Agency next April.

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BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

Michael Portillo

Echoing the speech he made during the Conservative conference in Blackpool, Mr

"That's why I stick my neck out in saying that I would like to be re-elected; to return to Parliament to help to express a broad body of opinion."



By NICHOLAS WOOD

But in a new report, Lawrence Mead, Professor of Politics at New York University, says that the US experi-

"The best single thing it can do is to restore order in the inner city. Above all, it can require that poor parents work, because employment failures are the greatest cause of family failures." Reviewing America's welfare to

likely to land a job anyway took part.

Last month, Ms. Harman claimed her "New Deal" for lone parents was producing

"I am convinced that lone parents are a vast untapped resource, and that simply offering a helping hand should result in an immediate response."

By ROBIN YOUNG

But the Consumers' Association says it remains unsatisfied that open-sided carriages used for freight trains are safe in the case of a fire. It doubts the realism of Eurotunnel's evacuation tests, and believes that keeping cars, fuel and people enclosed together in tourist shuttle wagons increases the risk of fire and the threat of casualties.

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Corporation of London should be abolished and its private income used to fund the proposed London authority and elected mayor, a pamphlet published today argues. Guildhall would become the base for the authority, with the mayor installed in Mansion House.

The proposal, published by the

Fabian Society, the pro-Labour think-tank, comes from Malcolm Matson, a City entrepreneur whose attempt to join the Court of Aldermen was blocked in 1994. Mr Matson challenged the body's arcane rules in the High Court, where he lost. But the Court of Appeal ruled that the aldermen had to tell Mr Matson why he was not a suitable candidate.

Mr Matson argues: "The Gov-

ernment's plans are doomed to fail unless it is prepared to pursue sweeping reform of a Corporation of London, the undemocratic, unaccountable and largely self-perpetuating body at London's historic and geographic heart. Constitutional reform of the City is a critical test of the new Government's radical credentials." He believes that the existence of two mayors in London — the City's Lord Mayor and the

Among Mr Matson's proposals are the privatisation of the City's four markets to provide a windfall for the Treasury. He also calls for the merger of the City of London Police with the Metropolitan Police, but accepts the need for a specialist force to police the financial and information sectors of

global markets. The City's millions in revenue from capital assets would provide the new London authority with an independent financial base and bring greater accountability to the management and use of the cash, he argues.

He questions the corporate vote planned by the corporation to give companies a say in the running of the Square Mile.

Parliament and the nation have

been dazzled by the corporation's ceremonial and charitable record, he suggests. "Few have seen fit to look under the gold coach or the Lord Mayor's ermine to see that this local authority has failed to fulfil the statutory obligation placed on it by Edward III to chart a course 'with good faith and reason' which is 'profitable to the people'."

The Corporation of London last night dismissed Mr Matson's ideas

as "half-baked and unworkable" and claimed his pamphlet gave a "superficial, naive, half-picture of the real City of London". Franchise reforms would, a spokesman said, remove all anomalies and make the corporation representative of the business community.

□ *The Last Rotten Borough*. The Fabian Society (11 Dartmouth St, London SW1): £10

[illegible]

Beach battle puts a town at bay

Richard Duce
on a challenge to
businessman who
hopes an ancient
ownership right
will be his oyster

AS A fresh November wind gusts off the North Sea towards one of Britain's best-known coastal restaurants, its owner is at the centre of a rising legal storm over his claim to his own stretch of the coast.

Barry Green, 62, says he has historic legal rights to register the 1½ miles of shingle beach as his property, running to the left and right of the Egon Ronay-listed Royal Native Oyster Stores at Whitstable, Kent. He has run into vociferous opposition from councillors who have engaged lawyers to try to disprove the claim.

Mr Green already owns the only cinema in Whitstable and is opening a new hotel. He runs holiday lets in converted fishermen's huts, holds the majority stake in the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company and still operates his original core business of selling ceramic tiles.

The battle for the beach has led to allegations that he will deprive locals of access to a natural amenity and will put up barbed wire to keep them away. An emergency debate has already been held by Canterbury City Council. Yesterday Mr Green was happy to give assurances that he had no plans to shut off the beach, saying that any development would be limited to the construction of ramps for the revival of oyster beds. His ownership claim stretches 200 metres out into the bay.

Geoffrey Pike, a local historian, says: "There is not the slightest doubt that Mr Green owns the beach, but questions do arise for townsfolk on how it will affect their rights of access to the beach."

"Access has been a traditional part of Whitstable life and it also raises concern about whether this will give Mr Green the right to develop on the beach."

Mr Green insists that laying right to title of the Manor, and



Julia Seath, who wants a written assurance that residents will have access to the beach in perpetuity. She said: "It has stirred up bad feeling"

Foreshore of Whitstable with the Land Registry is merely a formality to clear up future ownership. It encompasses offshore oyster beds.

The Romans first brought oyster farming to Whitstable, and the rights to fish off the town rested with the Lord of the Manor until the late 18th century. According to Mr Pike, it was Lord Bolingbroke who fell on hard times in 1793 and sold the oyster grounds and beach to the highwater mark to the Free Fishers and Dredgers of Whitstable, who eventually formed the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company.

In 1869 the company bought the beach fronting the town from Wynn Ellis, a subsequent Lord of the Manor. By the turn of the century, Whitstable was producing 20 million native oysters a year, but overfishing led to a huge decline. The company

buildings, now the restaurant, were derelict when Mr Green bought a 75 per cent stake 23 years ago. The restaurant business alone now has an annual turnover close to £1 million.

Mr Green and his son, Richard, 32, a director of the company, say their ambition is to reintroduce oysters to their beds. At present, they buy them from a neighbouring firm.

Although the beach is probably worth a small fortune and one of very few in private hands, we would never consider selling the beach," Mr Green said. "We are trying to keep things as they always were. There has been oyster farming here for thousands of years. The company is tied in with the beach. We are registering the land because of the beds. We need control over both."

"I don't feel we have any-

thing to fight. We have put our case to the Land Registry, and so far there are no other valid claims."

"It is a joke to suggest that I am going to bring in razorwire to keep people out. I can give an assurance that enjoyment of the beach will never be restricted."

Concern about the future of the beach for the 30,000 population of Whitstable is led by a Labour councillor, Julia Seath, who tabled an emergency council motion and is seeking a written assurance that access rights will be granted in perpetuity.

She said: "I am concerned about the implications of this for the townspeople. I am looking for an assurance that, at some future point in time, access will not be denied or charging policies introduced."

"That would be a grave threat to the civil liberties of the people in the town. It has

stirred up a lot of bad feeling in the town. It is a small place where people often fall out with each other, but when threatened by one individual they will stand together."

Janet Franklin, senior solicitor with Canterbury City Council, said: "We are trying to protect the rights of the public. It is too early to say if Mr Green has a legitimate claim, but we have a duty to object where the public rights are of overriding interest."

Two years ago, Mr Green received £12,000 grant aid towards the £100,000 conversion costs of the fishermen's huts, but failed to let them to local artisans as originally intended.

He now lets them to holidaymakers at £75 a night. Change-of-use planning permission has still to be granted. They were featured earlier this week on the BBC Holiday programme.



Green: says he would never sell the beach

Railtrack will let hire bikes take the strain

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL managers are preparing to lure commuters away from their cars with rented bicycles. Railtrack directors are anxious to seize on the increasing enthusiasm for cycling by setting up bicycle hire shops at the main railway stations.

The company has submitted plans to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, outlining proposals to provide bicycles at stations in London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham.

The move would enable commuters to hire a bicycle for the day and return it in the evening. The scheme would follow the example of countries such as The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, where bicycle hire has become a routine part of city transport. In Germany, thousands of cyclists pick up a bicycle at one

cyclists. Peter Gazey, project manager of Bikerail, said: "We are a long way behind other countries. There are signs that we have got cycling into the institutional process. But it is a long way from where we were five years ago and we know that train operators are keen to have hire facilities, if only to avoid bicycles on trains."

Mr Gazey said that it was unlikely that a retail outlet could survive on bicycle hire alone, but might include sales of cycling accessories as well as offering servicing for commuters' bicycles. Some rail companies, led by Anglia Railways and Great Western, have set up bicycle racks on trains but most of the 25 train operators make no provision for cyclists.

A Railtrack spokeswoman said that the company would examine the options in detail in the new year before deciding which stations would lead the hire project. "We want to show that we will support the Government in its plans to have an integrated transport system and to reduce congestion in city centres."

Operators are keen to have hire facilities, if only to avoid bikes on trains

Cycling groups claim that it is difficult to take bicycles on trains because most operators have abandoned guards' vans. They have also complained to Railtrack about poor storage facilities at some mainline stations and the lack of adequate signs for racks.

If the scheme proves successful, cycling pressure groups hope similar plans will be introduced at stations serving coastal towns and beauty spots. Hire schemes have been set up in Bath and Moreton-in-Marsh, in the Cotswolds, but have not been backed by rail companies.

The move towards bicycle hire follows a study prepared for Railtrack by Bikerail, an organisation aiming to promote better rail facilities to

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Museum reunites Handel with his librettist

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MUSEUM being founded in memory of the composer George Frideric Handel has acquired an important portrait of the man who wrote the libretto to *Messiah*.

Thomas Hudson's imposing portrayal of Charles Jennens (1700-73) will be displayed, alongside an extraordinary collection of Handel manuscripts and memorabilia that was acquired for the nation in September, at the house in Brook Street, West London, where Handel lived for 36 years until his death in 1759.

It was bought this week at Sotheby's. Half the £13,800 price was raised from private

donations; the rest came from the National Art Collections Fund, which, with 80,000 members, is Britain's largest art charity.

Stanley Sadie, president of the Handel House Trust, described Jennens as the most important of Handel's artistic collaborators. "It was Jennens who conceived the idea of an oratorio on the theme of the

Messiah and planned the libretto, providing what a contemporary described as 'the most elevated, majestic, and moving Words'."

Apart from *Messiah* of 1741, Jennens also wrote, among others, librettos to Handel's oratorios *Saul* and *Belshazzar*. He became so renowned for his extravagant lifestyle that he was nicknamed

Solyman the Magnificent. Despite their friendship, however, Jennens displayed a certain arrogance. Dr Sadie noted how he felt "Handel's music failed to do justice to his words, saying 'I shall put no more Sacred Words into his hands, to be thus abused', although he admitted that 'Tis after all, in the main, a fine Composition'."

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Saddam given warning over Scud offensive

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's ambition to have missiles tipped with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads poses "a great danger to the world", Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Before leaving London for Washington, he refused to say what action he might take if Saddam fired Scud ballistic missiles at Israel. "I'd rather not speculate on possibilities," he said in an interview on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*. However, Israeli officials have made clear that if Saddam fired missiles with chemical or biological warheads at cities in Israel, there would be no hesitation in responding from

NETANYAHU

its stock of weapons of mass destruction.

During the Gulf War, Israel agreed to hold back from retaliatory strikes after Scuds were fired on Tel Aviv, because of the importance of maintaining the Arab coalition against Iraq. The Iraqi leader had hoped to provoke Israel into responding, and thus destroy the Arab alliance built up by the United States.

An Israeli official said yesterday: "Today that Arab alliance against Saddam doesn't exist, so the same argument no longer applies." Israel has an awesome inventory of weapons it could unleash against Iraq. An Iraqi official admitted recently that during the Gulf War it was Israel's implied threat to use nuclear weapons — not America's warning of retribution — that stopped Saddam from launching Scuds armed with chemical and biological warheads against Tel Aviv.

His deadly warheads were ready but were never launched. The Scuds fired towards Tel Aviv in 1991 carried high-explosive warheads but many disintegrated as they approached their target because of faulty design work by Iraqi engineers who had converted the Russian-made Scuds into longer-range al-Hussein missiles.

Last week, Israeli officials were reported to have given a warning that Israel would respond to an Iraqi chemical or biological attack with a neutron bomb, the enhanced-radiation weapon that some countries developed in the 1970s. A tactical weapon which produces a huge wave of neutron and gamma radiation but a reduced blast effect, it can be carried in a Lance missile system or delivered by howitzer or aircraft. Although this was seen as part of the rhetoric to deter Saddam, it is presumed Israel has a number of neutron bombs.

It is also suspected of having developed up to 100 nuclear warheads, and has the delivery systems for launching a nuclear attack. The Jericho 1 single-warhead ballistic missile, with a range of more than 300 miles, and the Jericho 2, with a range of more than 900 miles, are both capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The Israeli Air Force's F4 Phantoms are nuclear-capable, and its F15s and F16s are also likely to be capable of carrying nuclear bombs. Israel, helped by the US, have been developing the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system, but it is not yet operational. A number of its flight tests have failed, although the system is expected to be in service within the next few years.



An eight-year-old Israeli girl is fitted with a gas mask at a distribution centre in Jerusalem as the nation prepares for possible attack from Iraq.

Israelis prepare for attack

writes from Jerusalem). David Zucker, chairman of an Israeli parliamentary sub-committee on security affairs, said a lack of money meant that about 10 per cent of the population would be without adequate gas masks. Israeli military officials estimated that some 400,000 people had faulty gas masks that

needed to be replaced. Mr Zucker said that a further £14 million was required to meet the shortfall in funding. Otherwise, until the end of 1998, there would be a lack of kits — specially designed for infants and men with beards. He said the shortage was "due to a lack of political foresight and the non-

allocation of adequate sums of money".

During the Gulf War, more than 40 Iraqi Scud missiles were launched at Israel. Only one man died, of a heart attack, but there was extensive property damage as Israel bowed to American pressure not to retaliate. Israelis lived for weeks in sealed areas, wearing gas masks, only to discover that their equipment then was also defective.

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Iraq puts its faith in veteran missile

THE only weapon in Iraq's armoury capable of hitting an American U2 spy plane is the Russian-made Sa2 Guideline surface-to-air missile, according to US Defence Department officials (Michael Evans writes). First put into production in about 1956 and operational with Soviet armed forces in 1958, it has been one of the most widely used missile systems in the world. The Russians have sold it to more than 20 countries.

It was fired by the Soviet Union when it brought down the U2 flown by the US Air Force pilot Gary Powers in 1960. Two Sa2s were fired at

the aircraft as it flew over Soviet territory. One hit the aircraft and the other exploded behind it.

The Sa2 was then new and it has since been modified and improved. However, it is obsolescent and modern aircraft with electronic counter-measure systems should have little difficulty avoiding it. "a flying telegraph pole".

The U2s on patrol over Iraq are protected at a lower altitude by support aircraft including electronic counter-measure planes which would be able to jam the Sa2's radio guidance system.

Kuwait joins chorus against military strikes

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN Nicosia

COALITION

AMERICAN attempts to rally support for possible military strikes against Iraq suffered a significant setback yesterday when Kuwait declared it would oppose the use of force.

The tiny oil-rich emirate has been the staunchest supporter of American policy on Iraq since the Gulf War and still relies on US muscle for its survival. Its call for moderation came as Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, began consultations with Washington's allies in the Gulf and Iraq announced its own diplomatic offensive to win Arab support.

"Any military attack would

harm the Iraqi people and neighbours," Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, said after meeting President Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo. The Kuwaiti Cabinet also issued a statement urging a diplomatic solution, echoing calls from Egypt, Syria, Bahrain and other key Arab components of the Gulf War alliance.

However, there was also strong criticism of Iraq for triggering the crisis over weapons inspections. "We discussed Iraqi and American threats, and not threats from one side," said Sheikh al-Sabah, who ruled out reconciliation with Baghdad while President Saddam Hussein was in power.

A Gulf diplomat said: "The Kuwaitis are still terrified of Saddam and don't want to back military action if it doesn't get rid of him. After all, they have to live next to Iraq. If the Americans can convince Kuwait they have a real strategy to topple Saddam, I think they'd give Washington the support it wants."

Iraq accused the United States of pretending to give diplomacy a chance while it used the time to complete military preparations, but Baghdad's own diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis were accompanied by fiery rhetoric.

resenting moderate Arab countries complained that recent comments by President Clinton had supported Baghdad's claim that Washington was using the issue of weapons inspections to topple Saddam and replace him with a "US-sponsored regime". Mr Clinton said on Friday that by expelling American weapons inspectors last week, Saddam had ensured sanctions would remain in place as long as he was in power.

However, there was growing speculation in the Middle East that Washington may offer to improve the terms of a year-old deal whereby Baghdad is allowed to sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and other humanitarian supplies.

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Stand-off provoked 'to protect germ-war stockpile'

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON
AND JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE showdown with President Saddam Hussein was provoked when it dawned on the Iraqi leader that he could no longer hoodwink United Nations weapons inspectors over his secret stockpiles of germ warfare agents.

American and UN officials said yesterday that the inspectors had been closing in on sites where they expected to uncover the heart of Saddam's biological weapons programme, including evidence of refrigerated lorries used to move supplies of the lethal anthrax bacteria, and details of tests on live animals.

Some inspectors suspect that Iraq may even have conducted tests on prisoners captured during the Iran-Iraq war and on Kurdish dissidents. Rumours about human guinea-pigs have never been confirmed, but two years ago inspectors did obtain videotapes of the death throes of dogs, monkeys and other animals infected with anthrax spores and botulinum toxins.

As the inspectors tightened their noose, they were also threatening to expose the role of Saddam's Special Republican Guards in controlling the sites, logistics and testing of biological warfare research under the supervision of his son, Qusay.

The current crisis began two days after a stern letter to the Iraqi Government on October 27 by Richard Butler, head of the UN inspection teams. It came after three rebuffs during September and October of inspectors trying to gain access to premises controlled by the Republican Guards

WEAPONS

and to a building known as the chemical defence headquarters. Mr Butler's letter proposed a Baghdad meeting on November 9 and 10 at which he would be accompanied by, among others, his chief biological weapons investigator, Dick Spertzel, a retired US military officer and acknowledged expert on germ warfare.

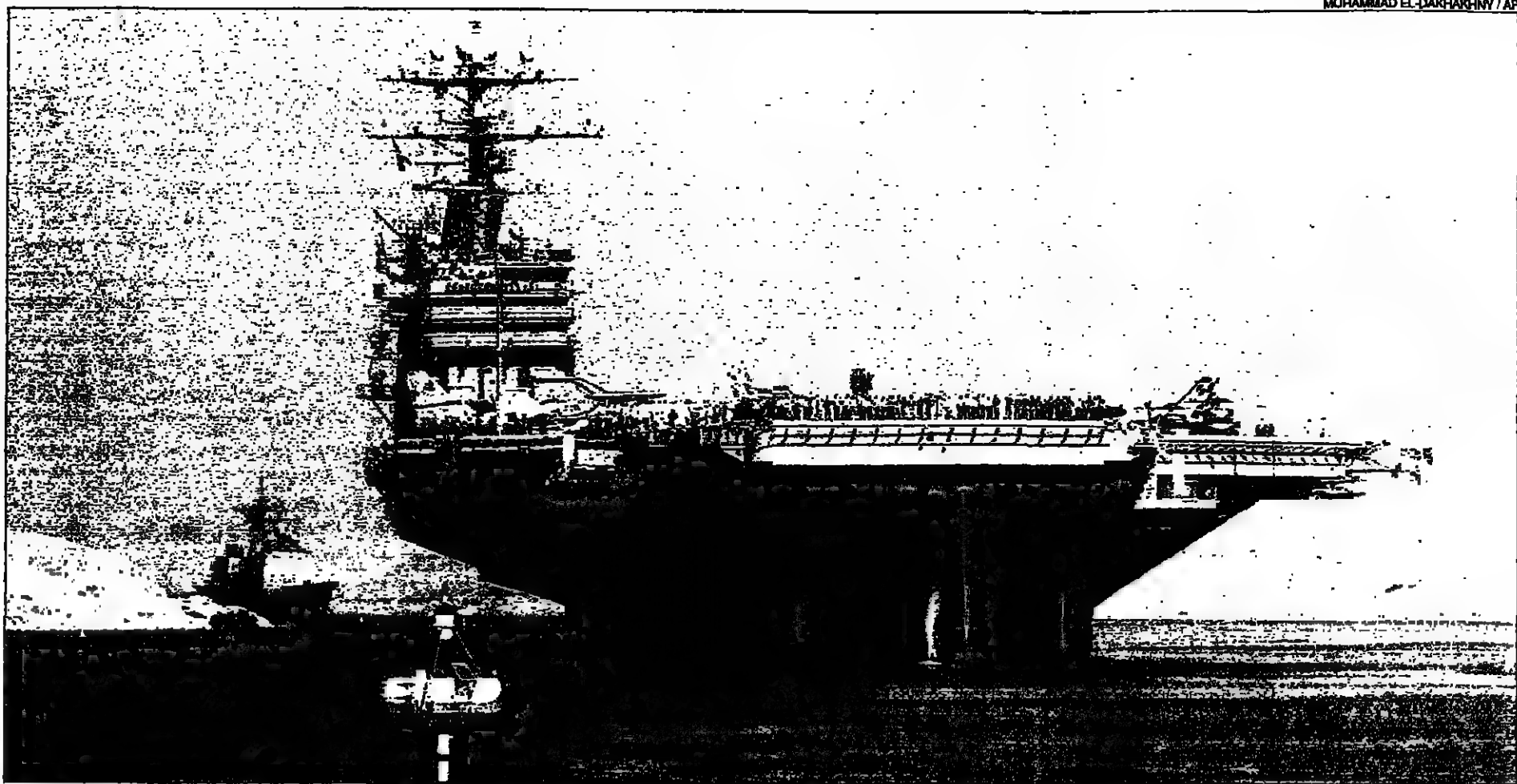
The meeting, Mr Butler wrote, should focus on how Iraq intended to proceed on providing information about biological weapons. He also wanted an understanding that inspectors could visit sensitive sites, and assurances on how they would be treated there.

These demands apparently confirmed for Saddam's inner circle that their claim to have made a "full, final and complete declaration" about biological weapons had been rejected as preposterous.

In addition to making them come clean about their prized biological arsenal, Mr Butler wanted more information on Iraq's missile warheads and its stocks of two chemical warfare agents - VX nerve gas and mustard gas.

Iraq is keeping its germ-warfare data secret after losing the bulk of its chemical weapons and nuclear programmes to the inspectors.

□ Moscow intervenes: Russia is trying to rein in the Special Commission responsible for dismantling Iraq by transforming its advisory board of technical experts into a political oversight body. At Russia's request, the UN Security Council has recommended that Unscorn reconvene a meeting of its 21 commissioners to discuss the Iraqi confrontation.



The aircraft carrier USS George Washington, above, in the Suez Canal en route to the Gulf yesterday. The USS Annapolis nuclear submarine, below, is in her escort



Air power stepped up at Incirlik

Incirlik Air Base: Washington is boosting its fighting presence here in southern Turkey, one of Nato's most sophisticated air bases, which was extensively used for bombing sorties during the Gulf War (Andrew Finkel writes).

But Turkey denied that it had given permission for the base to be used for fresh offensive action. Ismet Sevgin, the Turkish Defence Minister, said yesterday that permission would need the consent of the Turkish parliament. He also

TURKEY

denied that F117 Stealth bombers had been sent to Incirlik.

The base is currently used to patrol the northern Iraq no-fly zone, and any increase in the intensity of operations must raise the possibility of a direct confrontation with Iraqi fighters violating the zone, which they increasingly do.

Iraqis in the zone normally turn tail as soon as they are "lit" by radar beams. "If they are looking for a confrontation" now, that's what they'll get," a US Embassy spokesman said.

Clinton cites Tokyo attack as warning

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

GAS FEARS

THE crisis with Iraq is not a replay of the Gulf War but a battle against organised forces of destruction, President Clinton said yesterday.

Citing the March 1995 sarin nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo underground as an omen, he said: "Think about it in terms of the innocent Japanese who died in the subway and how important it is for every responsible government in the world to do everything possible not to let big stores of chemical or biological weapons fall into the wrong hands."

Eleven commuters died when the Aum Shinrikyo sect released the gas. By drawing the comparison, Mr Clinton was raising the alarm that rogue regimes could place lethal weapons in the hands of terrorists and spies. William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, held up a 5lb bag of sugar on US television. Just such a bag filled with anthrax bacteria could kill half Washington's population of 600,000 if it were spread over the city, he said.

Mr Clinton won support for his search for a diplomatic solution in telephone calls to Tony Blair, Presi-

dent Yeltsin and President Chirac of France. Britain has joined America in gearing up for possible military action, and Mr Clinton and the Prime Minister discussed diplomatic measures and the need to maintain unity in the UN Security Council.

Russia has agreed to use its special relationship with Iraq to try to find a peaceful solution. The Americans have made a similar appeal to the French, but whether Paris agreed is "less clear" said an official with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who is in the Middle East. Yesterday she added extra stops to her schedule - Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. She was seeking to stiffen resolve and remind them of America's need to use bases in their countries should there be armed conflict.

The Saudis are likely to collaborate if they are convinced that Saddam is determined to rebuild and expand his capacity to manufacture weapons of terror. Bahrain has a large US naval air station and is not expected to raise objections should diplomatic efforts fail.

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China lets dissident go to US

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING

CHINA'S leading pro-democracy activist, Wei Jingsheng, a 47-year-old electrician twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, was released from jail at the weekend and flown yesterday to the United States in what diplomats saw as a surprise concession to American pressure on Beijing's human rights record.

That pressure came most notably during the recent visit of President Jiang Zemin to the US, where he held talks with President Clinton. The two leaders disagreed publicly on human rights, most significantly on the violent suppression and massacre of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Xinhua,

China's official news agency, said that Mr Wei had been released on "medical parole".

Mr Wei had always said that he would not seek exile but he was serving a 14-year sentence during which he had allegedly suffered harassment, including beatings from criminal cellmates. Human rights sources claimed that the ill-treatment had been on the orders of senior prison officials. Family members said that his decision to go indicated the parlous state of his health. On his arrival in Detroit yesterday he was taken directly to hospital.

After a meeting yesterday with some of his family, including a brother, at Beijing's international airport, where there was high security, Mr Wei boarded a Northwest

Airlines flight for Detroit. He was accompanied by a US diplomat and a Chinese judicial official. His sister, who lives in Boston, said she would join him to help to "look after him".

His brother, Wei Xiaotao, told reporters later: "My brother is still in high spirits. He hopes to come back one day to China. He is not the kind of person to change his ideals."

Diplomats said the release of Mr Wei Jingsheng, who has been suffering from heart trouble and high blood pressure, and has lost most of his teeth, was "a positive but not conclusive sign of willingness of Beijing to change".

Foreign diplomats said that Mr Wei might become irrelevant in exile. Some even say that this may be what the US Government, and certainly

Beijing, want. Others hope that China will soon release other jailed pro-democracy activists such as Wang Dan, one of the chief student leaders during the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations. His parents say that he also needs medical treatment.

Mr Wei first aroused the ire of the authorities in the late 1970s when he called on Deng Xiaoping, the late reforming leader, to bring in the "fifth modernisation" — democracy — to complement free-market reforms in the economy.

He was one of the most prominent activists during the pro-democracy wall campaign of the 1970s, publicly writing posters critical of the Chinese leadership. He had served one 14-year jail term and was into his second, imposed essentially for a

meeting with a senior human rights official of the US Administration in 1994, although Beijing said the penalty was for trying to overthrow the Government.

American officials, who clearly hope Mr Wei's release will help to relax Sino-American tensions, said that in exile Mr Wei could be much less of a force for change in China than he was in a labour camp. One foreign envoy suggested, "Pretty soon, he may cease to be the flavour of the month."

China has observed that other freed dissidents, once overseas, become less and less relevant. Because they get no publicity in the Chinese press — they are treated as non-persons — few Chinese know much about them or what they stand for.

Former pop star beats the drum for Islam

FROM TOM WALKER
IN SARAJEVO

THE man looking every inch a Muslim cleric returned to centre stage, pulled by the frantic crowd's exhortations. "Who is the greatest?" he asked them. "Allah is the greatest," the thousands cried.

After an absence of 18 years, Yusuf Islam, formerly the pop star known as Cat Stevens, was back in the public gaze. On Saturday night, in Sarajevo's Skenderija centre, the one-time hippy whose plaintive melodies were a leitmotif of the early 1970s, showed Bosnia his new self.

With nothing more than five dervishes banging drums for accompaniment, he performed three songs — two in English, one in Arabic — before a dramatic, some would say rabble-rousing, encore.

Born Steven Geophiliou, the son of a Greek Cypriot restaurant owner and a Swedish mother, the singer, now 48, said he wants to "see how music can play a part in shaping Islam in Europe". He has spent much of the past two decades campaigning for Islamic causes such as Kashmir, and running a school in Brondesbury, in the North London borough of Brent, but



Islam, formerly Cat Stevens, in Sarajevo, sings songs he wrote after being inspired by Bosnian Muslim folk music

hearing Bosnian folk melodies inspired a return to his musical roots.

Relaxing in the nearby Hotel Bosnia before the concert, Islam was happy to talk to television crews and journalists about his faith and the new unadorned music with which he praises God, but the past was largely off-limits. A minder in the lift on the way up to his room suggested, for example, that Yusuf's apparent support for the fatwa

against Salman Rushdie should not be mentioned.

Earlier in the day Islam had a meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic — "an amazing man, he came out of jail to become President, what a story." Did he regret a past from which he cannot hide? "As Muslims we accept what God has written," said Islam. "Some of the songs have more meaning now than when I wrote them."

Under pressure, he admitted

still singing hits such as *Morning Has Broken* to his youngest daughter, but that it would be "too much" to ever sing them in public again. Saturday's songs, entitled *Little Ones and Mother, Father, Sister, Brother*, bore the simplicity of the Cat Stevens of old, but were strictly Islamic in content.

Islam's concert attracted little publicity yet still managed to pack Skenderija to the rafters with a cross-section of

Bosnian society. From ministers to soldiers to Srebrenica refugees, the faithful turned up to a deeply Islamic event that many said confirmed a new cultural identity. Few commented on the irony that Yusuf was born into the same faith as the Bosnian Serbs just 20 minutes up the road.

As old men in Muslim berets, veiled women and soldiers in fatigues drifted away, Islam prepared for the next concert, in Turkey.

Swiss put English top of the class

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

A MAJORITY of Swiss people want their children to learn English as a second language instead of another of Switzerland's four other national tongues, according to an opinion poll.

Sixty per cent of German-speaking Swiss would like English to be taught at school before French, while 57 per cent of French-speakers had a similar preference for English as a second language over German, the survey in the weekly *Facts* indicated.

Language teaching is regarded as a key binding agent that overcomes the social tensions inherent in Switzerland's linguistic diversity. Sixty-four per cent of the country's seven million inhabitants live in German-speaking areas, 19 per cent in the French-speaking west and 7.6 per cent in Italian areas in the south. Romansh is spoken by only about 40,000 people. The three main languages are granted equal official status in the Constitution.

The survey was published as education chiefs sought to defend the teaching of French, German or Italian as a second language throughout Switzerland. Regional authorities in Zurich are examining a project that would break away from national practice by introducing English early in primary school by 2000.

Cash crisis threatens UN

New York: The future of the United Nations has been put in jeopardy by the collapse in the US Congress of a compromise on funding the organisation (James Bone writes).

As diplomats were gearing up last week to meet the threat from President Saddam Hussein over arms inspections, Congress dropped legislation

on UN funding because of an unrelated dispute between the Republican majority and the Clinton Administration over abortion. The UN faces financial ruin next year because of the shortfall: Washington, which pays 25 per cent of the body's budget, owes \$1.3 billion (\$812 million), or 60 per cent of its unpaid dues.

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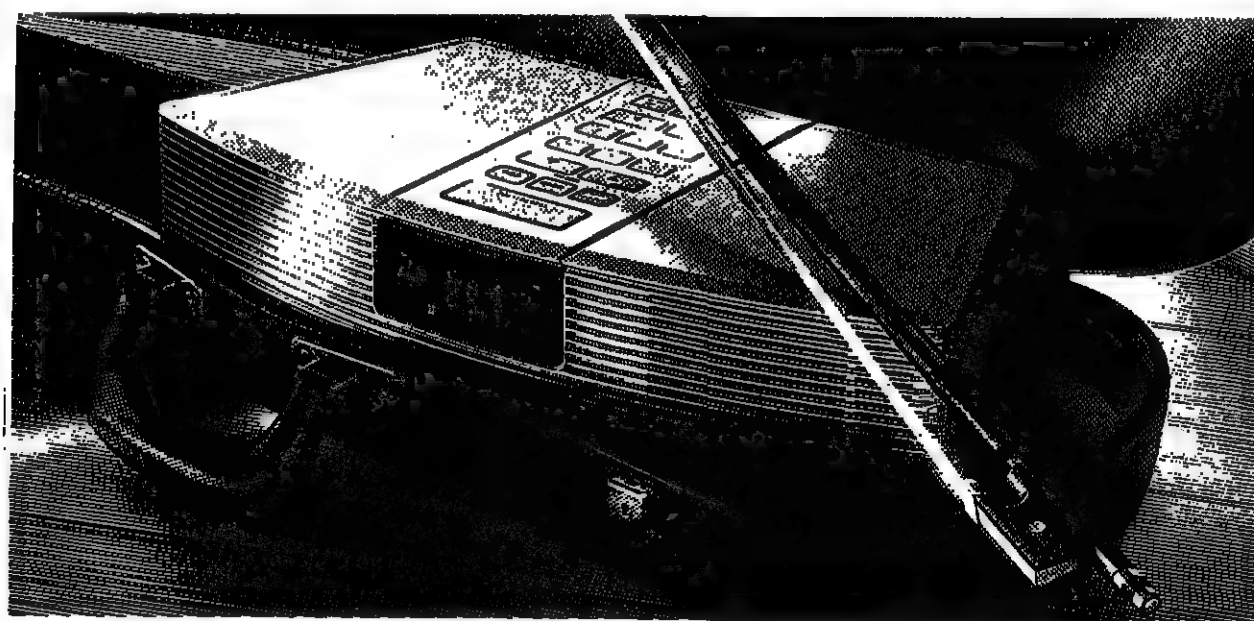
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Can bodies be built?

BUILDING new bodies, bit by bit, is a tempting target for developmental biologists. Human cells grown in culture might have many uses, from treating degenerative brain diseases to replacing bone marrow — even, ultimately, to growing entire organs such as livers for transplanting into patients. The idea is closer than most people realise.

Professor John Gearhart of Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University told a conference earlier this year that he and Dr Michael Shambloott had discovered how to culture human embryonic stem (ES) cells. These are found in the early embryo and have the capacity to become anything from bone to muscle to nerve. It had been done before for mice, cows, rabbits and sheep, but this was the first time human ES cells had been successfully cultured. The biologists kept them alive for seven months.

They started with material from aborted fetuses five to seven weeks old, extracting cells and keeping them from differentiating into organs by adding materials called cytokines, which control the development process. Eventually, the cells begin to specialise, forming several types of tissue. To find out what these tissues are, the scientists are transplanting the cells into mice whose immune system has been turned off so they cannot reject the transplant. The cells are expected to develop into a range of tissues: other scientists working with monkeys have produced muscle, cartilage, bone, teeth and hair, the American magazine *The Scientist* reports.

The first application of techniques like these is likely to be in treating diseases such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's. Swedish research has shown that embryonic cells taken from foetuses can alleviate Parkinson's symptoms, but the ethical dimension has always loomed large, trading in aborted foetuses is distasteful. Establishing a culture from a single foetus, then maintaining it for a long period of time, would prove more acceptable.

That is what a company set up by scientists from the Institute of Psychiatry in London plans to do. ReNeuron, founded by Professor Jeffrey Gray, Dr John Sinden and Dr Helen Hodges, will grow foetal brain stem cells in culture, and make them available to neurosurgeons for implanting into patients' brains. Experiments with rodents have shown that the cells migrate to areas of damage in the brain and there adopt the form of the dead cells, restoring function and memory.

The brain is a soft target because it does not reject foreign tissue. For transplants into other parts of a body, it would be necessary either to tailor the cells to match the recipient or, more usefully, to create a universal cell line that anybody would accept.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

A great nose for grapes only

WINE tasters spend their lives learning to distinguish subtle differences in bouquet and flavour. But tests in Sweden reveal that they are only average at detecting odours they do not often experience.

Mats Bende, an ear, nose and throat specialist from Central Hospital in Skövde, and a psychologist, Steven Nordin, of the University of Umeå, asked 22 professional wine tasters to smell a non-wine odour, butanol, in various dilutions to measure their threshold of detection.

Comparison with non-experts showed no significant difference. Then they were asked whether a series of solutions had recognisable odours. The wine tasters could detect and name odours found in wine at levels three times more dilute than untrained volunteers.

This included vanilla, lemon, apple, violet, orange, vinegar, aniseed and tar. But faced with the non-wine scents of almond, cinnamon and ammonia, they were no better than the controls, the Swedish team writes in *Physiology and Behaviour*.



Dominant-handedness is found in no primates apart from human beings. The only other species that shares this trait is the parrot, which favours left-footedness

A big hand in evolution

Right-handers have been dominant for 5,000 years, but just how such a bias came about remains a mystery. Anjana Ahuja reports

In ancient times, left-handedness was equated with godlessness; today it is more often equated with genius or exceptional talent. Throughout the ages, left-handers have been regarded with suspicion or reverence. Certain cultures still force children "at risk" of developing left-handedness to use their other hand.

Science has not yet come up with a reason for such a marked imbalance in handedness among human beings. Despite more than half a century of research, experts are still quibbling over how to disentangle the complex web of genes, culture and environment in which the solution to this riddle must lie.

Amid the confusion, a psychologist, Michael Corballis of Auckland University, has

80 per cent likely to be right-handed. One sticking point is that even though identical twins share identical genes, there seems to be little correlation on handedness.

To complicate matters further, handedness seems to be imperfectly allied to another important characteristic: the site of language in the brain. Nine out of ten right-handers use the left part of the brain for processing language; only seven out of ten left-handers use the left hemisphere.

How does this lateral bias in both hand and brain come about? One well-received model, developed by Chris McManus, Professor of Psychology at University College London, postulates a handedness gene that exists in two different versions, or alleles. The D allele represents dextrality (right-handedness), and the C allele represents chance. According to the model, your handedness is cast according to the

It is that complexity which makes people special

permutation you inherit. And there are only three such permutations: DD, CD and CC. DD pairings are always right-handed. CD pairings are 75 per cent likely to be right-handed. CC equates to a 50 per cent chance of being right or left-handed. However, despite fitting the observations well, the model does not explain why or how this handedness could have evolved.

In a paper published in the latest issue of *Psychological Review*, Dr Corballis has drawn together decades of research in an effort to fill in the gaps. He suggests that at some point during the evolution of hominids (a class of primates that includes humans and great apes), the D allele suddenly appeared, possibly as a genetic mutation in one individual. Its main effect

was to introduce an asymmetry or bias in the brain that allowed the development of toolmaking and language — both uniquely human traits — to develop more rapidly than before. And one of the spin-offs was to bias human beings in favour of right-handedness.

Scientists know by perusing artworks through the ages that the proportion of left-handed humans has been constant for 5,000 years. Two alleles of one gene can maintain stable proportions over such a long time only if an unlike pair is "fitter" than other possible pairings. This means a CD pairing must be more advantageous than either CC (no bias) or DD (extreme bias). Being fitter, in evolutionary terms, means that individuals with CD pairings produce more viable offspring than those with the other pairings. That means that a right-left

bias in the brain is genetically superior to a no-bias or extreme-bias situation. But why? Several scientists have suggested that a bias evolved because, for learning purposes, it was more efficient and quicker for speech to be produced and processed by the same hemisphere of the brain.

Professor McManus explains: "If an engineer was building the human brain from scratch, he certainly wouldn't build it in its present form: two equally powerful halves with poor connections. It's like setting up a company with two headquarters, one in London and one in Melbourne, with just the telephone to connect them. That is why we have evolved to have language in one hemisphere."

It makes sense to assume that any bias would be

achieved at the expense of the other side of the brain. In most people, the left hemisphere is larger than the right. Dr Corballis suggests that the D allele is responsible for "pruning" the right side of the brain. A DD pairing results in too much pruning; a CC pairing in too little or none.

According to this hypothesis, those with CC or DD pairings would have their brains wired in a less effective way. So they should show poorer cognitive skills than those with a CD pairing. Indeed, people who show extreme handedness are less accomplished at reading than moderate right or left-handers. Controversial studies in mathematical skill, spatial reasoning, academic achievement and speech-processing also seem to support the theory.

Dr Corballis ran a simulation which showed that once a

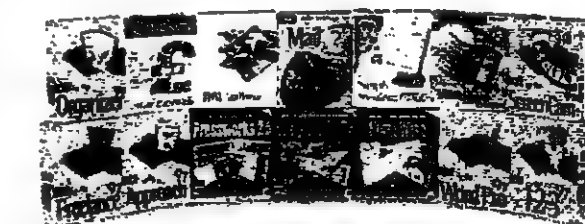
genetic advantage, however tiny, was established, it would spread through a population like wildfire. He estimates it would have taken no longer than 30,000 years, or 1,250 generations, for this mutant allele to establish itself fully.

When could the D allele have emerged? It could have surfaced as *H. sapiens* emerged out of Africa. If *H. sapiens* was previously confined to a small area, it would provide an ideal environment for the rapid and comprehensive spread of a mutation. There are profound consequences of dating the mutation to *H. sapiens*. It explains why toolmaking and language progressed so rapidly over the past 70,000 years, compared with the previous two million. Professor McManus says: "If this mutation determined only handedness, it would be just an eccentric little twist. But it put language in one half of the brain, which allowed us to develop complex social skills. And it is that complexity which makes us special."

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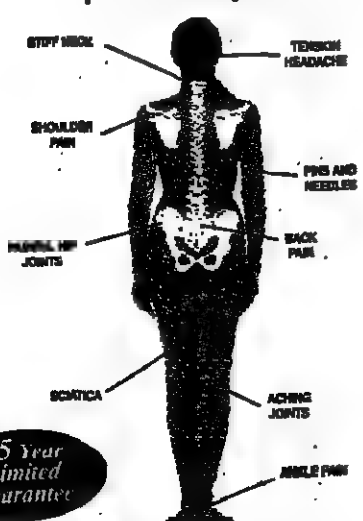
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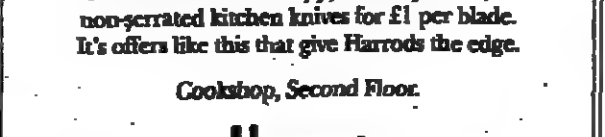
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'Two good parents is ideal. One good one is good enough'

Christa Worthington reflects on why she joined a group that helps single women to become mothers

Someone, a date, I think, once asked me if I was afraid of death. Pensive youth that I was, I said no, I wasn't afraid of dying; I was afraid of never having lived. Well, I didn't marry him or anyone else, and I'm still thinking such thoughts, but they are more pressing now that half my life has gone by. For years I hoarded motherhood carefully, like a squirrel does nuts. I planned to retrieve it one day when I was absolutely safe and sound. Throughout my thirties my thoughts about babies were often sad and anxious, given that I wasn't becoming a mother when I expected to. But as soon as I had the luck to fall in love, I would revert to glowing optimism, attached to

a particular man. And all would be right with the world — for a time. Now I am reinventing the world. There is, at the moment, no father for a child of mine, no husband for me, and what if there never is? I have had to stare this scenario in the face, and to my surprise, it hasn't killed me. Instead, I can have my life by claiming the decision of whether or not to become a mother. The decision does not belong entirely to time and circumstances, nor does it belong to anybody else. This much — the thinking about it — comes as a liberation. At the far end of my childbearing years, choice, the feminist banner I waved in the Seventies, is painted in very different colours. To control fertility now means having the



Christa Worthington: "There is, now, no father for a child of mine, no husband for me. What if there never is? I have had to stare this scenario in the face; to my surprise, it hasn't killed me"

option of conceiving without a man in the picture — a freedom that brings with it awesome responsibility and, like abortion, the occasional wrath of others. In the parlance of Single Mothers by Choice (SMC), a 15-year-old national support group for women like me, I have become a "Thinker"; someone still in the Rodin pose, who has not yet gone prone, into "trying", through

insemination by an anonymous donor or someone I know. I am also considering adoption. I haven't made up my mind: I'm too preoccupied with wrestling my biological time limit to the ground. It's a weirdly omnipotent yet powerless position — being intensely aware of your reproductive capacities as you watch them fade to black.

"To think," in SMC terms, is to enter a gestation period very like a pregnancy, with its own queasiness, cravings and sensations. It has its emotional distortions and its highs and lows, all moving on the rock bed, slippery and unforgiving, of reality. If I do pair my genetic material with that of an anonymous sperm donor, I will be accused of contributing to the breakdown of the family just as I manage to make one. Though there has been loud public debate over the rights of gay couples to have children, and though infertile couples have the world's sympathy, discussion of the single woman's journey to the edge of fertility is taboo. There is a perceived failure in it.

For me, the real failure would be not to decide, but to let denial do it for me. I see this and cringe: the 48-year-old who believes that nature will make an exception in her case. I do not want to be an eternal girl-woman. "There is a lot of denial," says Jane Mattes, the founder of SMC. "You see it especially among women with money. But there's a limit to fertility, even with money. You spend 20 years trying not to get pregnant; then you turn around and find that it's hard to conceive," she says, voicing the lament of my generation.

Ms Mattes, a psychotherapist, convened a group of single mothers, like herself, in her home in 1981. By 1982 the group had become a non-

profit organisation, and now has members in most states. She and other mothers share information, run workshops for Thinkers, Tryers and Stuck Thinkers, and network through an SMC newsletter. Of the group's 2,000 members, 98 per cent have a college education, and on average this group earns \$42,000 (£26,000) a year, about \$10,000 more than the average American man in the same age group. Statistics indicate that by 2001, up to 40 per cent of all babies born in the United States will be to single mothers. "People hear that there are two parents and assume they are good parents," says Ms Mattes. "Two good parents is the ideal. One good parent is good enough."

Ruth offers her donor's number. We could have siblings!

Fifty per cent of Thinkers decide not to have a child. What is the difference between the Thinker who tries and one who doesn't? "You have to grieve the loss of your life as you would be of the ideal," Ms Mattes says. That, for me, is the irony of being a Thinker: you must embrace the heart-rending imperfections that you have spent a lifetime sanding smooth: making sure not to marry the wrong man or put a child in a shaky situation.

"The key is to not see yourself as a failure," says my friend Ruth, seven months pregnant by anonymous donor insemination (DI), and I feel a flood of relief. I held the door open for Ruth at my first SMC meeting, and she has since shot past me, to pregnancy by a donor whose long form (medical and genetic history going back three generations) and audiotape she liked. "I still want a husband for me and a father for my child. I still have that dream," she says. "I've just postponed it."

A year ago, Ruth and I

walked into an SMC meeting in Manhattan together, in the basement of a community centre that felt like a bomb shelter. Where were the men? Had there been a war? Women of all shapes and sizes, beautiful and not, well-off and not, had gathered in a circle of chairs around toddlers fighting over toys. Anxiety was palpable among the Tryers, though not from the Mothers — they seemed serene. DI is an emotional rollercoaster of hope and disappointment that can go on for months at (at least) \$700 a cycle. A few of the women had quasi-partners in the wings: longstanding relationships with married or unavailable men.

We broke up into small circles of Tryers, Thinkers and Mothers. An elegant brunette bent her ear to a tape recorder, to scrutinise, in a dreamy, rhapsodic way, the voice of the donor whose sperm she had ordered. Women fanned out around her like children at story hour, all craning to hear. He sounded great, they assured her. Then the voice on the tape made a grammatical slip, and the brunettes winced.

Taped interviews in which a donor responds to questions about his health, family and interests are the latest offering from an industry increasingly pressured to be less anonymous, especially by SMCs. I go for a smooth baritone. "Distinguishing characteristics... I can't think of any," said a 24-year-old history major whose tape I had ordered, and I thought I heard a voice I could listen to for a lifetime. I see I am in a new stage of the process. I have begun to do things I never thought I would. I read the long profiles three times over before I go to sleep, divining beauty in the merest description: black hair, green eyes. I research adoption agencies, then stop, overwhelmed.

"Are you looking for eggs?"

asks the nurse in the waiting room of the fertility clinic. I have come here for preliminary tests, to buy time as I waste it. Crates holding frozen sperm in containers of liquid nitrogen are left, like milk, by the door. "No, I'm looking for sperm," I say, and the rock star on the modular sofa laughs. The doctor directs me to binders of profiles, selected at random from the sperm bank, from which I am to peruse my future. (Photos of sperm donors remain unavailable, even though photos of young female egg donors are offered in triplicate — smiling, full-length and in close-up.) "We'll start with DI, and if that doesn't work in a few months, we'll go to in vitro," he declares. In vitro, extracting eggs to fertilise in a Petri dish, is an entirely different animal to me, one that costs \$7,000 to \$10,000 a try. So I am

cheered by the note on a donor form, written in the donor's own hand, that his mother looked like Liz Taylor "without the ensuing weight gain". I feel torrents of warmth for this man. But he's "out", as in "sold out", when I phone the 800 number to order.

"I think my donor's cute," says Ruth, never having seen him, and she offers me his donor number, four digits long. This is an incredible act of generosity. We could have siblings! (He has also sold out.) I later learn that SMC has started a sibling registry. "I want to tell you to just go ahead," Ruth says. "But I know it's a hard decision." She seems so far ahead of me, as well as near. "I really can't wait to see this kid," she says in a tone unique to this new blind faith, and we fall silent thinking those old thoughts: Whose hair? Whose eyes?

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

Manchester United ruined my life

Supporting Manchester City is one of football's great lost causes. So why do five old friends keep doing it? Interview by Jason Cowley

True Manchester City fans will never forget Sunday, May 5, 1996 — the day their beloved team were relegated after losing at home to Liverpool, and their despised rivals, Manchester United, won the FA Cup Premiership. It was the day, too, when four men returned to the city of their childhood to mark more than 40 years of friendship and devotion to one of football's great lost causes: supporting Manchester City.

They were Colin Shindler, a writer and producer, David Green, a film director and managing director of September Films, Jeffrey Cohen and Michael Chadwick. "It was the most extraordinary weekend," Shindler says. "It seemed like this siren call had gone out from Maine Road [City's home ground], drawing people home from all over the world."

Howard Davies, a close friend of Shindler and chairman of the Financial Services Association — as well as former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England — was also at a game given added resonance by the fact that it coincided with the 40th anniversary of City's FA Cup Final victory over Birmingham when the Manchester goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann, a former German prisoner-of-war, famously played on in great pain after breaking his neck.

The friends' reunion inspired Shindler to write *Manchester United Ruined My Life*, an autobiographical account of his devotion to Manchester City, which will be published by Hodder Headline next spring. The book touches on the glorious irrationality of fandom, something psychologically complex and bound up with tribalism and feelings of identity and belonging. It is a powerful force over which one has absolutely no control.

For the true fan, loyalties formed in childhood can never be altered: not even if, as in the case of Manchester City, supporting a failure of a football club brings with it only misery and dejection, brings with it, as it does for Shindler and his friends, the only source of weakness in a life of professional strength.

The contrast between the position of the two Manchester clubs could not be starker. United, the richest and arguably most glamorous club in the world, are top of the Premiership and among the favourites to win the European Cup. For United the 1990s has been a procession of success: four championships, two FA Cups and two Doubles; their wealth is boosted by an incomparable merchandising empire.

City, in a state of perpetual crisis, are floundering at the bottom of the First Division. The club, which has the potential to be one of the biggest in England, has never been in a worse position in its 110-year history. A second relegation in three years is possible.

Unlike City, with its stadium in depressed Moss Side and support drawn largely from within Manchester, United are a national, even international, club, with a cosmopolitan glamour. The old joke about never hearing a Manchester accent at Old Trafford — United's marvellous stadium — has a ring of satirical truth: there are as many Cockney as Mancunian

United fans. City remain resolutely local: gritty, poor, stubbornly proud. Yet Shindler can no more switch allegiance to United than he can change the colour of his eyes: supporting City is intrinsic to who he is. As Davies puts it: "My support of City is not a matter of choice. I inherited two fatal flaws from my father: premature baldness and Manchester City, neither of which I can change. It's like a tribal bond, something irreversible."



Shindler with his hero Colin Bell

As a financial regulator, Davies leads a life, he says, of bounded rationality: quantitative, rigorous, analytical. "My work involves logic and rationality. Yet supporting City is clearly irrational. What is happening at the club is disastrous, awful; but no matter how bad it gets I have this emotional attachment to them that I cannot break."

As for Davies, so with Shindler and Green: supporting City is a tie that binds, a narrative thread linking their boyhood in Manchester to their London lives of ambition and affluent achievement. They have collaborated on numerous projects and films, including *Buster*, about the train robber Buster Edwards, which starred Phil Collins.

"The club has always been a thread in our lives," Shindler says. "If the phone rings after a game, it's either David or

Howard. When we were separated by 6,000 miles [Green spent four years in Los Angeles], I knew David was listening to the World Service or logged on to the Net trying to find out the result. I knew he was having the same response as me to another home defeat."

David Green adds, laughing: "I can remember those early mornings in California — fiddling with my long-wave radio trying to find the World Service; and I knew Colin was there in England waiting for the same result, sharing the experience."

City even brought them together when they fell out after *Buster*. "After that film I grabbed most of the success," Green says. "I went to direct in Hollywood, leaving Colin, who wrote the script, holding the proverbial baby to Muswell Hill. I was making a lot of money, living the millionaire's life."

Shindler interjects: "It wasn't a money thing. Like Howard, I'm not really interested in money. You can take everything away from me except my books. But I thought we were partners, we did everything together..." His voice fades.

The two friends are relaxing in the Sobo offices of September Films. They have the ease of a lifetime of friendship.

They met at Bury Grammar School in the late 1950s, where their Jewishness and mutual love of City brought them together. Mention of the Bert Trautmann Cup Final animates them: they spar like teenagers as they discuss past matches and the possible reasons for the prolonged malaise at City.

"For our generation that match was the defining moment," Shindler says of the 1956 final. It was the game that made Green a City fan. "I remember watching it on television when I was seven," he says. "I later met Howard Davies at primary school. He stood out not just because he was going bald at the age of eight, but because he was one of the few Manchester City fans at the school."

He breaks off to laugh, pointing out that he and Davies have always enjoyed a playfully antagonistic relationship. After primary school Green went to Bury, where he met Colin Shindler, and Howard Davies to Manchester Grammar. They met up again at Oxford; they share little, Green jokes, but their enduring, fanatical support for City. "We only ever meet either in the gift shop at Maine Road or at a mutual friend's party. But in fairness to Howard, he was probably going bald precisely because he was one of the few Manchester City fans. Even in those days there seemed to be a huge dominance of United fans — what with the Busby Babes and, later, the Munich disaster."

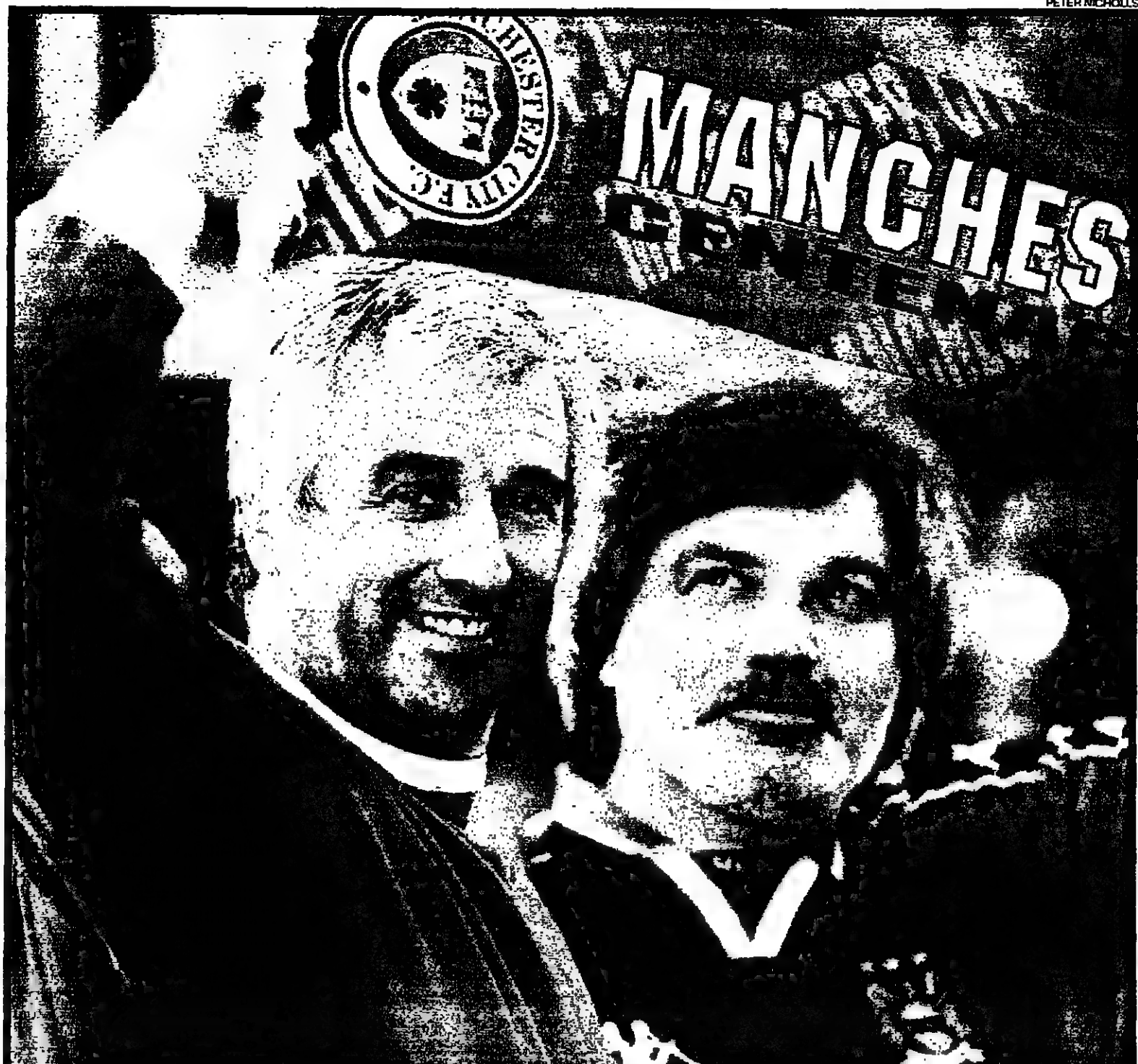
For his part, Davies has no recollection of David Green at primary school. "I met him at Oxford," he says, sternly. "He introduced me to Colin, who was at Cambridge, and with whom I go to watch City all the time. I haven't seen David at many games."

Even in their contempt for United the two old university friends are at odds. Davies, describing himself as a City rather than a football fan, would rather never watch another match than see United. "I absolutely loathe them. What gets to me about United is their ubiquity; you can't avoid them. They've even got Bobby Charlton's daughter presenting the weather."

Green, who gently dismisses Shindler and Davies as roundheads ("in Howard's case quite literally"), concedes



Howard Davies: "My support for City is tribal"



Shindler and David Green: supporting City is the tie that binds, a thread linking their boyhood in Manchester to their London lives of ambition and affluence

that as a "flash bugger" he ought to follow United. He is also more "cavalier" in his support of City, less intense in his loathing of United. He says: "Colin and I have light and shade in our relationship between United and City; we are as passionate as Howard but much more objective. The reason, I think, is that Colin and I have brothers who are fanatical United fans. Howard is an only child and his obsession is total. Siblings bring balance to opinion: Howard is total in his likes and dislikes; he loves success and hates failure. But at the centre of his life is this disaster zone that contradicts everything he believes in."

Again Davies disagrees.

"All this about being an only child... I have always regarded myself as a gregarious person, not some driven loner. It sounds like odd psychology to me."

Yet for all their sparring and protestations of gloom, one feels that these City fans would not want things any other way; that they derive a perverse pleasure from following what Davies calls "this utterly hopeless quest".

They clearly seek to discover abundance in loss, by locating happiness in the search for glory rather than in its realisation: in the pursuit of happiness, not its fulfilment. Shindler says: "Yes, you're right. I rather like being an outsider, the whingeing bloke on the sidelines, not part of the in-crowd. I like the fact that City will always be seen as the other club in town. This was the case even when we were the better team in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I would hate it if City became fashionable." And so would Davies and Green, who concedes that City's failure is a levelling influence in his life.

But are they being a touch disingenuous? As the chosen team of the Gallagher brothers of Oasis, City surely have acquired a kind of negative glamour, a frayed fashionability, as it were. Green partially agrees, but counters thus: "But even here United have the edge. Look, City might have the rude and vulgar Gallagher brothers as supporters, but United's star player, David Beckham, goes out with one of the Spice Girls. You see what I mean: it's cooler having a player who goes to bed with a Spice Girl than famous supporters who are rude and disgusting. United seem to top City at every stage."

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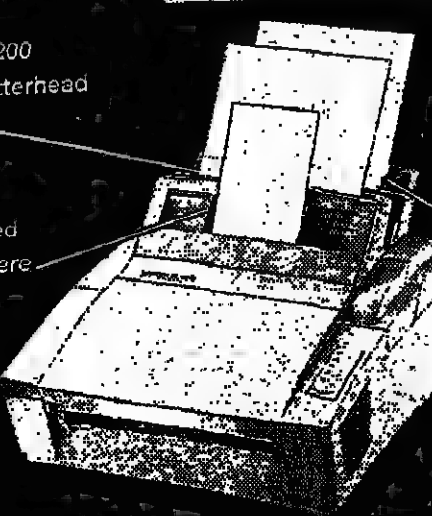
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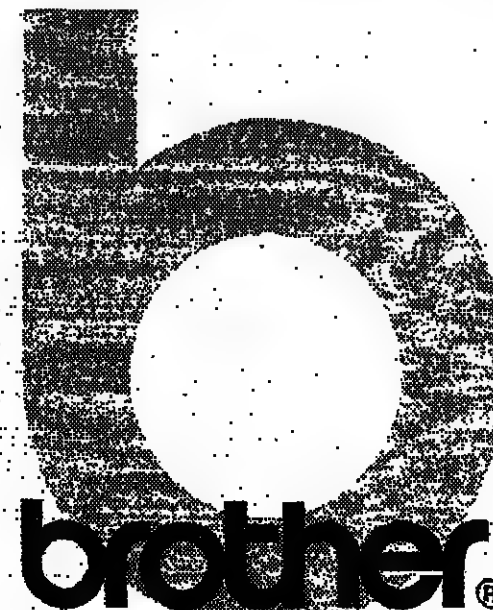
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A few weeks ago a university lecturer accused me in one of his lectures of being a white, heterosexual, male English novelist. Clearly he wanted his students to perceive this as a crucial limitation, even evidence of a malaise, for he added that these crimes meant that I was a supporter of the canon of English literature — Chaucer, Shakespeare, George Eliot, Waugh, Murdoch — which meant that I was utterly condemned in the estimation of lecturers such as himself, forgers of the new charter of letters.

Perhaps this is an isolated incident. I've been told that the universities of Britain are emptying of the sloganeering, politically correct mentors of yesterday. That caricature was reinforced by the fiction of colleagues whose careers straddled the academy and the novel in which they so often gave their learned colleagues a very bad press. If those of us who did not read English at university have a fearful view of what goes on there, then our perception, our fault can be laid at

Why am I published and damned?

the pages of those who brought us news from the front in their damning fictions. So the accusation may have been the stray remark of a sad leftover.

Nevertheless, it pricked up my ears because it has undoubted resonance. One day, possibly, it may seem a good time to attempt to set down at some length a chronicle of the trajectory that took me from scribbling Keatsian (as I hoped) verse in secret at 15 to the publishing of a novel ten years later and going on from there. There were obstacles and surprises which might bear the telling, not least the continuing involvement of English literature and its critics with the English class system and its endless permutations. There is also the clash between the sensibilities and perceptions of the working class and those of other cultures in this society — often as wide a gap as

that between different civilisations.

Then there is the whole issue of being involved in the media as well as in writing, and the way that relationship has corkscrewed through the past three decades.

But this white male heterosexual English business is worth a few remarks now, because it applies to so many of us writing today. It may be open to instant rebuttal to say that being a WMHE author over the past three decades has indeed felt like being not so much marginal-



ised (demonstrably untrue) but certainly set aside by history. The real tides sweeping to the shore were carrying other cargo.

Feminism came in like a lioness and although for generations women have claimed parity of quality in fiction, the notion of women's literature, literature about women and literature not only explaining but championing women, gathered great force from the 1960s. Its association with a vital and necessary movement in society gave it a relevance

which no WMHE author could hope to share, however sympathetic he might be to women in his fiction and in his politics. The women had it.

So did the non-English, whether it was the non-English of the English-speaking Old Commonwealth whose writers we were told and still are told have reinvigorated the tired old WMHE novel, or those magical realists from South America whose new manipulations of old fables sent a thrill of liberation through some part of the generation, or the Americans whose hugely impressive and ambitious writers overawed many of their long ago colonial masters. The non-English had it.

And the non-white. There has been and continues to be a surge in literature drawing its material

specifically from a non-white past. Some claim to discover in that past a reservoir of energy denied to whites because of their guilt, shame and exhaustion. The non-whites had it.

And the non-heterosexuals. Once again a stream which has run steadily through English literature for centuries became a flood after oppressive and unfair laws were cut off and homosexuality could disengage itself from criminality and public opprobrium. Again, almost step by step with feminism and non-white literature, the tide brought in a new mass of work which, again, almost defined itself against the WMHE novelists.

All this has some historical validity and has brought many positive qualities to the novel. What our lecturer missed, though, was the most important thing of all. Simply, never trust the teller, trust the tale. Good fiction, like any other art, can choose to come from the most unexpected sources — and even in 1997 that includes white male heterosexual Englishmen.

Horse play but no fun

The shock of Peter Shaffer's 1973 classic will always be the obscene, wilful act of a 17-year-old boy who blinds six horses with a metal spike. Even now, in a culture supposedly hardened to such arbitrary violence, this act still has a taboo-like impact.

Terry Hands launches his first season as artistic director of Theatre Cylwyd with a daring staging set in slate-like darkness with characters picked out by lonely spotlights. Here, in a flurry of intense encounters, we witness the uncanny spell that the horse-mad boy Alan Strang exerts on the imagination of his middle-aged psychologist, Martin Dysart. A single chair provides the only visible sign of comfort in a sapping first half that short-circuits Alan's supposed madness with Martin's spiritually bankrupt life.

It proves a surreal, slightly dreamy match in which all the

Equus
Theatr Cylwyd

characters are dressed in whites or creams, as if their natural juices had been bleached out of them. Frank Grimes's fearful Martin may be the sophisticated analyst, but he is in awe of the savage sado-erotic faith that he is paid to cut out of Alan. In every respect this play is really his tragedy, but Grimes's tortured analyst gives in too easily to Oliver Ryan's compelling Alan. The pop-eyed teenager worships horses with the intensity of only the most religious and demented.

His mother, Lynne Verrell's Dora, and his father, Robert Blythe's Frank, muddy the waters with their marital tug-of-war over who is to blame. But these seem like incidental squabbles until Manon Eames's febrile stable girl Heather precipitates the dangerous endgame when she finally forces Alan into the barn (his temple to Equus) for sex. The resultant drama is like watching a car crash replayed in slow motion: a nightmarish metaphor for a youth who blends sex with the worst excesses of religion.

Despite the thriller-like quality of Hands's production, he never quite unlocks the Greek passions his production aspires to. Raw spirituality is an easy winner over rational middle age. Yet there are some sterling performances, particularly the (human) horses, choreographed by Jane Elliott, who creepily and brilliantly steal the show. I'd put a finger on Alan Raglan's supremely convincing Nugget to win Horse of the Year.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Disney roars on stage

If you were feeling unkind, or maybe just being painfully frank, you could dismiss Disney's movie of *The Lion King* as a not-very-inventive cartoon that got pretty preachy about that all-American obsession, the need to prove yourself to a loving but demanding Pa. Equally, you might accuse Disney's stage version of *Beauty and the Beast* of being a piece of sentimental frippery whose dancing cups and saucers were the more irritating for their over-abundance of technological wizardry.

But your sour feelings about the Disneyesque would surely vanish after an evening in the New Amsterdam theatre. Not only have they transformed a derelict old playhouse in the grottiest part of 42nd Street into a pleasure dome that looks as if it has been jointly decorated by Della Robbia and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Their stage version of *The Lion King* is imaginatively so superior both to the movie version and to *Beauty and the Beast* that it left this ageing

The Lion King
New York

sceptic itching to run round Times Square shouting paeans to the unique power of theatre.

Most parents will know the story. King Mufasa's murder is sneakily arranged by his brother Scar and his son and heir, the cub Simba, is sent packing. In the desert he is befriended and brought up by a warthog and a meerkat. Simba matures and, despite his feelings of guilt for his father's death, returns to defeat Scar's hyena henchmen and claim his heritage. With a cast consisting entirely of articulate animals, the film was often fun, sometimes cute, occasionally touching, but not so convincing when it came to talking up nature's "delicate balance" and passing off hungry carnivores as crusaders for a sound ecology.

On the stage, Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi's book is the same and not at all the same. The feel has totally changed, thanks to the brilliant young director-designer Julie Taymor. You sense it the moment rhinos, elephants, gazelles and other exotic-looking creatures pour in from the wings and up the aisles to authentically African chants. What we are about to experience is partly a wonderfully challenging game of let's-pretend, partly a ritual retelling of an exemplary tale of death and renewal in the Dark Continent.



No lion sleeps tonight: the unique power of theatre and Julie Taymor's brilliant designs bring Elton John's *Circle of Life* song dazzlingly to life

That explains why there is no attempt wholly to disguise the actors. A human chorus sometimes appears, swaying and singing in full tribal costume. Since you can see them, you are always aware that people are manipulating creatures that take scores of forms: puppets big and little, masks large and small, stylised bodies with bits of person protruding from them, birds whirling from sticks, even a Heath Robinson tricked out with tiny, leaping antelopes. A giraffe is various-

ly an elegant sculpture on spindly crutches and stilts, a gaudy wigwag with a skull on top, and a silhouette glimpsed behind a white cloth.

Though geysers spout and the dead Mufasa's face spectacularly appears from a heavy mass of clouds and rocks, the high-tech stuff is unobtrusive or non-existent. Drought is signalled simply by a blue cloth slowly disappearing into a hole. The marvellously inventive stampede that kills Samuel Wright's Mufasa (himself a majestic blend of

pharaoh, Roman centurion and leonine superhero) ends with him lost amid clattering figures with vast widebeest masks and hairy, satyr-like legs. Tribal ceremony and mythic story become one.

Elton John and Tim Rice's more un-African songs, which include that perky ode to sloth *Hakuna Matata* and a beautiful lament for lost paradise called *Shadowland*, might have clashed with the veld-and-jungle mood; but Taymor's production bounced me into buying them and, indeed,

everything else. It takes exceptional skill to integrate John Vickery's snoring, lacquered Scar with Max Casella's jokey meerkat, and them with vegetation that variously consists of simple fronds and spiky grasses, balloon-like bulges of cacti, and green-painted dancers — but Taymor brings it off.

Myself, I was far too preoccupied with the crows snapping below a shaken-sheet waterfall, the hyena lowlife that was snickering its way through the elephant assuay

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Message loud and clear

English National Opera could not possibly, even with weeks of careful planning, have given a clearer demonstration of what the company is all about than with this outstanding performance of Verdi's comedy, their first new production coming ten days after Chris Smith's bizarre and hysterical *Ukase*. It was imaginatively cast, meticulously rehearsed, and just about every word of Amanda Holden's excellent translation was clearly audible.

This enabled Paul Daniel —

the company's music director and, *faisle de mieux*, chief executive — to quote Holden's "ménage à trois" line in a curtain speech rallying support. His remark that eight of the nine performances ENO had given since *The Day* had played to audiences too large for any other London theatre said it all, and the roar of solidarity would not have disgraced a football crowd.

Matthew Warchus's production is shared with Opera North: when it was unveiled in Leeds earlier this year there were those, myself included, who wondered if it would transfer happily to the larger Coliseum stage. A needless worry: it has transferred beautifully, its strengths enhanced, its weaknesses minimised. Laura Hopkins's box sets for the first two acts are perched attractively and helpfully — for words — right downstage in the middle of the proscenium opening; her false-perspective street and Windsor Forest have been rebuilt and gain enormously in atmosphere.

The chief virtue of Warchus's direction is that it is text-based. There is a welcome absence of the sight-gags to which directors of Italian-language performances feel obliged to resort: the laughs come from the words and the notes, and from an audience that is listening to the performance rather than reading it. The action may be "straight" almost to a fault — no disguise for Ford, and so comely and young a Mistress Quickly that she should be the recipient of a third letter — but there are some good laughs, among them Rita Cullis's splendidly robust Alice deftly fending flying items of laundry and returning them.

Alan Opie, for 23 years an ENO artist, was singing his



Playing for laughs: Alan Opie sings his first Falstaff beautifully, with Rita Cullis as a splendid Mistress Alice Ford

first Falstaff. As always with him, words and notes are an indissoluble entity: the role was most beautifully, subtly phrased and enunciated, and the combination of a young voice and acute observation of old men's body language was perfect for the role. Keith Latham, a solid and sturdy singer, took a giant leap forward with his Ford: his baritone is filling out noticeably at both top and bottom

and he hit the Jealousy Monologues with true Italianate *slancio*. Catherine Wyn-Rogers's young Quickly had no need for comic chest-register exaggeration: gorgeously full, coppery sound is already there, and she could just concentrate on singing the notes as expressively as they deserve.

As the lovers, Mary Plazas and Charles Workman looked like teenagers and sang with

easy lyricism: Cullis's Alice was, as in Leeds, pure joy to watch and hear. And, tactless to note since Daniel was in charge in Leeds, the score is rather better conducted and played. Oliver von Dohnányi draws all the wit and warmth from the music without ever overwhelming the words. A joyful, inspiring evening.

Why Kremer chose it is perplexing. Shostakovich's sparse scoring makes a reduction possible, but what the arranger Derzhaniko has written is an unimaginative transcription whereby the piano takes the bulk of the orchestration. The violin and cello struggle to be a string section (often playing in painfully uncushioned unison) and the percussion is unchanged. Despite the musicians' obvious commitment, one couldn't help feeling sorry to see someone's outlandish idea of

Schubert dazzles in fine company

For Gidon Kremer, Schubert is our contemporary. And the violinist lives every note with a naked intensity. It is this fevered approach which has made sense of his complex Schubert series at the Barbican. In juxtaposing the Viennese master with 20th-century composers he has found echoes of the emotional sincerity he finds at the heart of Schubert. But the lasting impression is of Schubert's works as vivid presences in a desolate landscape.

This was the effect of this programme in which he placed Shostakovich's Symphony No 15 before Schubert's String Quintet in C: two valdelyrics works by composers near enough to death to taste it. The contrast was violent. Besides the glowing wholeness of Schubert, the Shostakovich appears as a fitful dream, with ghostly quotations from Wagner, Rossini and Shostakovich himself stalking amid the skeletal clutter.

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trying to play a symphony at the piano with some friends. Even the cellist Boris Pergamenschikov joined in to play the celeste, none too comfortably. That aside, there was fine work from the pianist Vadim Sakharov. Kremer and viola player Clemens Hagen. Hagen is developing a raw side, perhaps from years of working with Kremer, while the latter is wiser than ever, turning Shostakovich's play on the *Tristan* theme into a gussy street ballad. In one of the rare moments of creative instrumentation both players swung into what would have been glissando trombone chords with caustic glee.

Kremer's dominating musical personality was always in danger of unbalancing the Schubert quintet. Not that he hadn't assembled a formidable team: Hagen was joined by Pergamenschikov, French violinist Gerard Caussade and the former Haydn Quartet violinist, Annette Bilk. Their sound in the warmly embraced trio was exceptionally splendid. Yet where Kremer was hectic they were reverent, where he veered from sublime pianissimo to crashing forte the others struggled to catch up, and with a more limited palette.

HELEN WALLACE

This week in THE TIMES



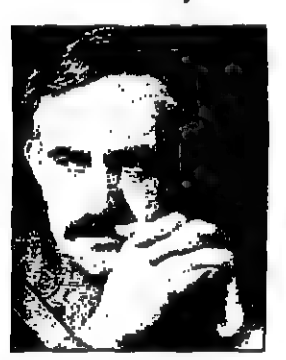
■ OPERA
The Royal Opera relocates to the Albert Hall for its production of *Otello*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ THEATRE
Ruthie Henshall struts her stuff in Kander and Ebb's *Chicago* at the Adelphi
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ DANCE
Scottish Ballet launches its festive season with a debut from Wayne Sleep
OPENS: Thurs, Glasgow
REVIEW: Monday



■ FILM
Jonathan Pryce stars in *Regeneration*, set during the First World War
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The American folk singer Joan Baez begins a tour in Crawley, Friday

Original colours

Graham Collier, currently celebrating his sixtieth birthday, could be forgiven a spot of quiet self-congratulation. He is, after all, a true pioneer of British jazz, the first UK student at Boston's Berklee College of Music, and the first jazz recipient of an Arts Council bursary, for *Workpoints*. Most importantly, he has always been in the vanguard of those attempting to ensure that jazz takes root, grows and flourishes in this country, through education (as artistic director of the Royal Academy of Music's jazz course since 1987) and workshops.

But Collier is, characteristically, as busy as ever at present, writing, educating and — as in this deeply satisfying concert, the last in a short series with his 14-piece Jazz Ensemble — conducting performances of his latest compositions. He began with *Three Simple Pieces*, composed for his sixtieth birthday concert at the Royal Academy, and featuring four long-time associates: trumpeter/flugelhorn player Steve Waterman, guitarist Ed Speight, saxophonist Art Themen and drummer John Marshall.

Both this and the following piece, *Shapes, Colours, Energy*, neatly encapsulated Collier's great compositional strengths: his mastery exploi-

tion of contrast, both dynamic and textural; the assurance with which he moves between impressionistic, free-ish passages and rambunctiously rhythmic ensemble romps; and the fine balance he maintains between composed and improvised elements.

Collier's career-long determination to foster such individuality and originality was celebrated in the concert's second half, in two more extended pieces: *The Miro Tile* and *The Third Colour*. The latter was the evening's most adventurous piece, courtesy of its reliance on Collier's signals as to who should improvise on its rousing and lilting themes.

As a practical demonstration of Collier's central philosophy — "it is the individual who is important, and combining a set of individuals can produce an engaging result" — this concert succeeded superbly; as importantly, however, it provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of a true British jazz original.

CHRIS PARKER

Hilary Finch reports on the merry revival of the 17th-century St Cecilia Festival in London

Blessed Cecilia, she who is summoned annually to appear in visions to all musicians, almost certainly had nothing to do with music at all. A relentlessly celibate Roman wife, she refused to renounce her faith and was left for 24 hours to suffocate in a dry steam bath before receiving three axe-blows to the neck. She lived — at least for a significant three further days. Hence her canonisation. The iconographical organ, from which she has been inseparable ever since, was probably simply a mistranslation from the Latin *organum*, meaning the instruments played on her wedding day.

Nothing deterred by the vagaries of hagiography, a Baroque ensemble called Fiori Musicali and a group of punters called The Society of Gentlemen, Lovers of Music have been conspiring for the past two years to revive a 17th-century London festival dedicated to St Cecilia's memory. November 22, 1683, saw the first St Cecilia's Day Concert. A year later, the

Feast to rival the heyday of Purcell

newly formed Society of Gentlemen, Lovers of Music arranged for an annual concert to be held at Stationers' Hall on that day. In 1692, the year of Purcell's *Hail! Bright Cecilia*, the *Gentlemen's Journal* reported: "A splendid entertainment is provided, and before it is always a Performance of Music by the best voices and hands in Town."

Unfortunately the feasting, which was an integral part of the annual celebrations, turned into a veritable bacchanale of intolerable noise and rampant vandalism. The Gentlemen Lovers were unceremoniously banished from Stationers' Hall.

Exactly 300 years after the premiere of Purcell's *Bright Cecilia*, Dr Penelope Rapson and her Fiori Musicali marked the anniversary by performing the Ode in Stationers' Hall. The success of the event led to the restoration of the festival and, in 1995, to the revival of the Society of Gentlemen, Lovers of Music to support it, and to provide the excuse for some better behaved, if no less lavish, banqueting. Today the society is chaired by Donald Tregidga, himself a Member of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers.

In this year's seven nights of feasting and merrymaking the festival (which

ends on Saturday with Handel's *Alexander's Feast*) will also extend to Schubert and New Orleans Jazz. Schubert's Fifth Symphony played by a Baroque ensemble? Rapson, who will conduct, points out that the work was first performed in a Viennese drawing-room, "and it needs to be treated with every bit as much respect for the right instrumentation and articulation as Baroque music". And on Friday Stationers' Hall will transform itself into the New Orleans Preservation Hall at the turn of the century (without the Temperance) with a visit from Brian White's *Magna Jazz Band*.

The last composer to hymn Cecilia was Arthur Bliss with his anthem *Sing, Mortals* in 1974. Does Rapson plan to revive the Gentlemen Lovers' tradition of commissioning new works? "Next year is likely to see our first commission. And we may commission new poetry as well."

St Cecilia Festival, Stationers' Hall, London EC4 (01327 361380), all this week

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My plans to clean up party politics

Tony Blair says reform of funding is long overdue

The funding of political parties is one of the great unresolved questions of our democracy. No one who examines the current free-for-all believes it works well, or fairly. Yet for years nothing has been done. And until this Parliament there has been no Government prepared to take action to end the abuses.

As I promised long before the election, the Labour Party wants openness and fairness in procedures for party funding. So today, for the first time, the political will in government exists. So, too, does the means — a full review by the Neill committee, the successor to Nolan, which can set out clearly the principles and procedures all parties should follow.

The Labour Party made an important start in reform before the last election. I made it clear we would ban all foreign donations. We are doing it. I said we would publish a list of all donors where donations are more than £5,000. And I have.

But that is only a start. The questions are whether there should be ceilings on the overall amount spent in national elections; whether there should be top limits for individual donations; and whether the name and amount of individual and company donors should be published.

Each of these suggestions would represent a major reform in itself. Taken together, they would add up to a completely new world of electoral finance, making for greater openness and fairness in our democracy. And it remains open to consider whether there should be business funding at all.

For years the Conservatives have been able to collect millions directly and from front organisations. They have done so from abroad as well as from home. They have collected without ever formally naming the source of any donation. They have never declared one penny of the money they have received.

Even when pressed about dubious donors such as Asil Nadir, they have merely promised to consider the matter after a prosecution in a British court and even now failed to keep their promise to return the money. Recent promises to provide lists of donors have yet to be honoured. Today, while Labour has already acted, the Conservatives clearly have no desire to be open and above board.

Some say Labour should go beyond the reforms we have already proposed, and unilaterally set our own limits for the size of individual donations while at the same time naming all donors and the amounts they give.

Indeed, some say it would be right not only to propose this but to do it irrespective of what other parties are prepared to do. Yet the consequences for elections of this unilateral action should be considered in detail. It is not just that Labour donors alone would be subject to the kind of grotesque misrepresentation that David Sainsbury, Alec Reed and others have suffered in recent days. It is also that if the Conservatives refused to

play by decent rules, while others exercised openness and restraint, then elections would be even less fair and democracy would suffer.

Far from advancing the cause of fairness, we would merely be aggravating an unjust position that has existed all century — where the Conservatives, with secret funding, have been able to outspend every other rival many times over.

So the question that must be faced is whether other parties will voluntarily do likewise, and if they do not what should be done. Clearly if they refuse to play by the rules, then there is no level playing field and democracy suffers.

The Labour Party will take its own position in its submission to Sir Patrick Neill. I will be recommending the toughest possible set of rules. If there is one lesson to be learnt from this episode, it is that the current rules do not work.

I believe there to be a powerful case for national limits on electoral expenditures. We will also be ready to limit individual and company donations to a modest amount. At the same time we stand ready to publish names and amounts.

We will be ready also to consider any proposals Sir Patrick has for state funding of political parties. At the moment state funding exists almost by the backdoor — through support for Parliamentary research; Opposition party funding; help with free postage for all candidates sending their election addresses; and free TV time for party political broadcasts. Any examination of state funding should take all this into account. I remain, however, instinctively cautious about further such funding.

As the Neill investigation proceeds we are happy, too, to submit a list of all past donors, and to do so for the past five years. So we will be happy to open our books. But it is right that if we do that every party does so, and if Sir Patrick decides this is right we will offer legislative backing for any requests he makes.

Reform is necessary, but it will require to be backed by measures to counteract loopholes and avoidance. So we have to be clear that we can avoid opportunities for front organisations to receive money. We have to be sure that there are arrangements in place for a proper policing of the system. And we have to be clear that we can ensure foreign funding is banned for good. We must not end up, as in the United States, with rules that start with the promise of tightening up on party donations and end in avoidance and then disillusionment.

Yesterday I apologised over the handling of the Formula One affair, and vowed that we learn the lessons. We will. One of them is that the laws on funding should be reformed sooner rather than later. Out of the difficulties of the past week, and out of the real scandals of the Tory years, can come changes that make for a healthier democracy. I stand ready to help Sir Patrick Neill bring in those changes. I urge other party leaders to join me.

Isaiah Berlin and Jimmy Goldsmith were utterly different personalities — but Jewishness was at their core

Last Thursday I went to the celebration in memory of Sir James Goldsmith at St John's, Smith Square, on Saturday and Sunday evening I viewed Michael Ignatieff's beautifully peaceful interviews with Sir Isaiah Berlin on BBC2. I knew both men, about equally well, and had a rather similar relationship with each, one of long-standing and friendly acquaintance. As Henry Kissinger, who became a close friend of Jimmy Goldsmith only late in life, said of their early relationship, Jimmy burst unpredictably into his from time to time, with the longest intervals in between.

It was the same in my case: I tried to act as an honest broker in a settlement of his libel action against *Private Eye* in the 1970s; he wanted to buy *The Times* in 1980; I played a walk-on part in the great bid for BATs in the late 1980s, when he invented the word "unbundling"; he backed my appeal to the courts against the Maastricht treaty; I was somewhat sympathetic to the Referendum Party, but thought its political strategy was unwise.

The core of what I admired and liked about both men had something to do with the Jewish formation of their minds. I once interviewed Golda Meir in Israel when she was Prime Minister. She used a phrase about herself which has stuck in my memory: she said she was "a non-observant Jewess". Both Isaiah and Jimmy were certainly non-observant; neither had any formal religious belief, Jewish or otherwise. Like Golda Meir, Isaiah was deeply Jewish in his ethnic consciousness; Jimmy, in his personal way, was deeply half-Jewish. He had a very strong sense of his father's Jewish roots, but an equally strong loyalty to his mother's French peasant, and therefore, Catholic, ancestry. At the end, it is said that he found himself thinking increasingly about spiritual reality. I did not discuss these matters

Two men with their hearts in history

with him — though I now wish I had. In the last long conversation I had with him, which was almost a year before his death, I felt he was more a Catholic than a Jew in relation to the next world, and more a Jew than a Catholic in relation to this one, but he had faith in neither religion.

There was no Catholicism in Isaiah Berlin, and no belief in God either. Michael Ignatieff brought out an apparent contradiction in his liberal philosophy. He denied believing in absolutes, yet he also denied being a relativist; he recognised evil and opposed it. It was as though he saw evil as an absolute, and saw the absolute evil of Soviet Communism, but could not bring himself to regard any good as absolute; people had to choose good for themselves and build their own systems of value.

By the standards they set themselves, the lives of Isaiah Berlin and Jimmy Goldsmith were modest affairs, too successful to be called failures, but falling short of their highest potential. Isaiah Berlin was an influential liberal thinker, who played a gallant part in the mid-20th-century counterattack on totalitarian dogmatism. He was a student of the history of ideas rather than an original philosopher. Jimmy Goldsmith built up a great fortune, which was his aim, but did not found a great business. His excursions into politics were well financed, but he could do little to hold back the tide of history when it was running against him. The fact that these two men were

among the most interesting and valuable people of their time, does not alter the limitation in their achievement; that was fully recognised in his own case by Isaiah Berlin in the Ignatieff interviews.

Their most admirable quality was not that they prevailed, though each had an important influence, but that they struggled with the great issues. My own experience is that this struggle has been much more common among my Jewish than among my non-Jewish friends; among out-

William Rees-Mogg

ers, I think of Keith Joseph. It is not that Jews are more intelligent than other Englishmen; some are and some are not. It is that they are more often serious about the world issues than the English, or than the broad Euro-American culture itself. Of course the Holocaust is an historic experience which Jews cannot evade, but many non-Jews choose not to remember.

Isaiah Berlin's big theme was liberty under the challenges of the mid-20th century, when Europe was conquered by Hitler and the Soviet Union was ruled by Stalin. Another Jewish intellectual for whom I have a

great admiration is George Steiner: he has spent his life trying to understand the impact on culture of the experience of the Holocaust. In a rather similar way, Isaiah Berlin tried to understand the impact on liberty of the experience of Stalinism. Our historic context is very different from that of earlier generations and demands this rethinking.

Jimmy Goldsmith, though himself highly intelligent, tried to answer these great questions by actions rather than theories. He believed in a much more freebooting liberty than that of Isaiah Berlin, but liberty was not his central theme. That was tribalism. The most moving moments of the service of celebration were all tribal. Chief Buthelezi processed to the dais, dancing to a Zulu chant; Henry Kissinger spoke of the "miracle" of a close friendship late in life of two men who, while being so many other things, were also German Jews by ancestry; the celebration included the music of the Mexican mariachis; it closed with the New Orleans spiritual *When the Saints go marching in*.

Jimmy Goldsmith was fascinated by other ethnicities because he had so many himself — Jewish, French, English and German to start with. He also had several times the normal genetic share of manhood, which made his private life so complex but so warm, gave him his extraordinary authority, and made him seem rather like an Old Testament patriarch. He was a sympathetic and heroic figure

for other ultra-masculine cultures, including the Mexican and the Zulu.

I always admired the wisdom of Isaiah Berlin's belief in the values of liberty: for him it was rightly a battle of the books, rather than of the barricades. I went with Jimmy Goldsmith's campaign only as far as the battle of the law courts, and thought Putney a bridge too far. Yet Goldsmith's central insight, though a harder truth, may have been the more significant: he believed that liberty can be preserved only through the individual nation. Listening to the second of the Ignatieff interviews, when Isaiah Berlin rejected the State which treats the citizen as a child, one felt that he had at last seen the threat in the European project, and had realised the difference between his values and those of Brussels.

With Goldsmith there was no doubt. He was English, French and German; that did not castrate his sense of nationhood. He knew that the European project had become a threat to all three of these nations, and that the individual nations were still the guarantors of liberty. Of course, Isaiah Berlin saw that this was true of Israel and of the Palestinian nation as well.

Both men may by now be surprised to find themselves in the next world, in which they did not properly believe. Yet the existence of a religious reality shines through the work of both their lives. For Isaiah Berlin, truth and liberty, in which he put his faith, were spiritual absolutes even if he did not think they were. For Jimmy Goldsmith, courage and loyalty were his absolutes, but he also felt the archaic animism of all his tribal religions. I have no idea what the words of Chief Buthelezi's chant meant, but they spoke to me of the Zulu gods welcoming home a tribal hero. When the saints go marching in, both men will be in their number.

It's no good just being sorry

Mr Blair needs to go further to regain the initiative, says Peter Riddell

Saying sorry is not enough. Tony Blair belatedly acknowledged yesterday that the Government had made mistakes in its handling of the exemption of Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban. But his "trust me" apology, however rare from a Prime Minister, will not end the affair.

I do not believe that Mr Blair's decision was influenced by the £1 million donation from Bernie Ecclestone. The Prime Minister's account of how policy was made was convincing, even if ministers have been naive in accepting at face value the warnings about Formula One shifting overseas and the grossly inflated estimates of the impact on employment.

Less convincing, however, was Mr Blair's explanation of how and when he realised there was a conflict of interest. He argued that this threat arose only earlier this month, when the decision was taken, rather than on October 16, when he met Mr Ecclestone. While several options were being considered during the second half of October, Mr Blair and other ministers were then already sympathetic to Formula One, as is apparent from the Civil Service note of the meeting released yesterday. He should have acted earlier over the £1 million donation. Similarly, his account of the involvement of Sir Patrick Neill, the new chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, is partial. Far from willingly publishing the latter's advice, as Mr Blair implied yesterday, Sir Patrick had to press Downing Street for the release of the exchange of letters after a misleading version



Tony Blair and Sir Patrick Neill, who had to put pressure on Downing Street to release an exchange of letters

had been presented by official spokesmen.

But these are now footnotes. The real question is how parties can raise money without creating conflicts of interest when they are in office. The potential problems have been aggravated by a shift in the sources of political funds. Big companies have been giving less money to the Tories, while the Blair leadership has been keen to reduce Labour's dependence on the trade unions. This has meant raising more from wealthy individuals and businessmen, who provided as much as £15 million in total for Labour in the nine months up to the election. This also reflected the belief of Mr Blair and his advisers that Labour has unfairly suffered in the past from being "outsized" by the Tories. In particular, more has been

spent on highly skilled staff rather than on posters and advertising. There is little evidence that often exaggerated differences in levels of spending make nearly as much difference as party insiders pretend.

More important is whether private donations on the scale made by the likes of Mr Ecclestone secure access and influence. The Tories have always pretended that such conflicts do not exist. But after the allegations of the past few years, the public will not take such assurances on trust.

The Government has admittedly done more than the Tories ever did, in proposing a Bill in the current session requiring disclosure of the names of donors of more than £5,000

and a ban on foreign donations. And Mr Blair has asked the Neill committee to look into the funding of parties (though he should have consulted the committee's terms of reference). He leaves no doubt in the article on this page of his desire for tight controls on contributions and spending, leading to far-reaching changes in our party system. But there is a danger of putting an excessive load on Sir Patrick's committee.

First, Mr Blair was wrong to ask Sir Patrick to advise on the Ecclestone donation. Lord Nolan, Sir Patrick's predecessor, always insisted that the committee's job was to examine how existing procedures work and to recommend changes, rather than to consider individual cases. Some members of the committee think it is

a mistake to blur the rule-making and implementing functions. Sir Patrick was put in an impossible position since no one else was available to provide such guidance. This is outside the remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, while successive Cabinet Secretaries have suffered from advising ministers on such matters. In the event, Sir Patrick provided sensible and robust advice (fortunately, given that he did not know the size of the donation). But his committee should consider whether to set up a small, independent Office of Government Ethics, as in America, to advise on such ethical conflicts and interpretation of the Ministerial Code.

Secondly, the answer to charges about influence-peddling is disclosure. The Government could consult quickly on this in time for the Bill in the current session. For instance, not only the source but also the size of donations of more than £5,000 should be named within a month of being made. There are problems of definition — for instance, to cover front organisations — but the wider the disclosure the better.

These questions could be dealt with separately from the longer-term study of party funding. This is complicated enough, and all the committee should perhaps attempt is to take evidence and clarify the options, and their pitfalls, leaving the politicians to determine such inherently controversial matters as caps on donations and national expenditure and state funding.

The Ecclestone affair has shaken, but not so far irreparably damaged, public trust in Mr Blair. The puzzle is why it took the Prime Minister and his close advisers so long to recognise its seriousness. Something went wrong in Downing Street last week. Underlying this is the deeper, underlying problem of adjusting from the informality of Opposition to the more demanding standards of Government. Mr Blair has started to regain the political initiative. But he needs to go further. Leaving it all to the Neill committee is not enough. The Government should act now to remove doubts over conflicts of interest and disclosure.

Seed's sprout

JONATHAN AITKEN is seeking salvation. I understand that the disgraced former Cabinet minister is considering converting to Rome. He has told friends that he plans to visit a retreat at a leading Roman Catholic public school with a view to taking instruction. Times are clearly turbulent for Aitken, who has lost his seat, his libel action and even his marriage. It was believed that he was seeking redemption amid the well-heeled happy-clappy set when he was spotted last month at the ultra-Protestant Holy Trinity Brompton, in Knightsbridge. He was said to be starting a ten-week course to tug up on "the principles of Christianity".

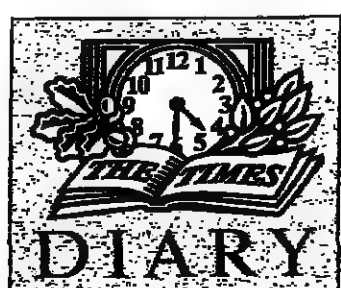
Instead, he might follow in the spiritual footsteps of his former colleagues Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer by heading off to Rome. The former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, once so bright and amusing, has been helped through his period of doubt by Lord Patten, the former Education Secretary.

It is thought that Aitken has held talks with Father Michael Seed, the mercurial ecumenical adviser to Cardinal Basil Hume. The good scout is becoming a celebrity figure, having signed up both Widdecombe and Gummer. He is also talking to Aitken's old friend, Alan Clark, about converting. After checking out a retreat centre at Ampleforth or Downside, Aitken might well become another "Seedling". I wish him well.



Aitken: when in Rome?

● HERE, high in *Diary Towers*, we have been trying to remember the last time that a Prime Minister used Chequers to give such a party-political TV interview. We assumed, naively, that the PM's country residence was intended for conducting matters of state and for



relaxation. John Major gave such interviews in his Huntingdon lounge (and believe me, it was a lounge). I just hope that Mr Blair cleared the broadcast with the Chequers trustees. Otherwise they might take a dim view.

Cameras roll

WHEN he peels off his polyester hipsters after the tour with the geriatric rollers, Mick Jagger will turn his raddled head to more lyrical lyrics. His firm, Jagged Films, plans a flick about Dylan Thomas. *The Map of Love* will focus on the poet's relationship with his wife, Caitlin, best described as boisterous. The script will also cover Thomas's notorious drinking bouts, not least his final plunge in New York in 1953, after which he

lapsed into a coma and died. Shooting will start in Wales next spring, while the director Christopher Monger chooses his cast. The leather Jagger could make a good Welsh shepherd.

● HOW to sell William Hague? This is the tricky question Frank magazine has set advertising agencies, including once so loyal Saatchi & Saatchi. Some suggestions were unhelpful. One has a snap of Hague above the slogan "the new Con. man". A hopeful effort states: "Unemployed single black lesbian mother? Come home to the New Conservatives." A design by Harrari Page will not appear: "It involved naked bodies and the heads of Hague and Ffion Jenkins." Sounds a winner.

Foot slogging

UNCOMFORTABLE with the capital and its new Labour mores, Michael Foot has thrown a quiet party to celebrate publication of his tribute to his hero, Nye Bevan. Tredegar, where the old Labour heart still beats in Bevan's South Wales constituency, has been in carnival mood on the centenary of Bevan's birth. "We've even had a laser spectacle," says Lew Smith, now MP there. Not that this could

entice Tony Blair. Says Lew: "He doesn't often call me these days."

● A CONVIVIAL haunt, *Pratt's*. The club has installed a chair lift to help members from the basement. Members are relieved. Macmillan often had to be helped from there. A geographical note: the basement is home to the bar.

Motor mouth

THAT car junkie Lord Montagu of Beaulieu discloses that he acquired



"Now, a party political apology by the Labour Party"

his first motor, a modest Hillman Minx, in a suspect manner. "It was a fiddle," he tells me. "It was 1947 and I was serving in Palestine. It was virtually impossible to buy a car on the home market. I said it was for export." He was believed, so he had his 21st birthday present. Now he favours models with more muscle: he wants a supercharged Daimler Super V8.

● EATING with Jeffrey Bernard was no more salubrious than drinking with him. "When entertained in Wheeler's by Francis Bacon, he fell asleep with his head in a plate of Dover sole," *Esquire* informs us. "As he woke for coffee other diners recall his piteous cry of 'Oh Christ, I've gone blind,' with tartare sauce covering his specs."

On the Social

THE MARCHIONESS of Milford Haven is on a shortlist having applied to become social editor of *Harpers & Queen* to replace Lady Celestria Noel. Before she married Milford Haven earlier this year, the marchioness, a mother-of-three, began her journalistic career with articles about the hardship of being too beautiful. The new job — attending parties, frating with dukes, looking pretty, that sort of



Heading for Harpers?

thing — will enable her to put her close chums, such as the Duchess of York, back into the social pages. The salary might be welcome by her husband, who sold his share in the family seat, Moyne Park, after life began to grow rather expensive a few years back...

JASPER GERARD



POISONED CHALICE

A well-intentioned law that could shackle the press

The imminent Bill to toughen the law on data protection, which the Government is required under European Union law to put on the statute book before next October, will appear to most people as a well-intentioned and necessary. The aim is to protect individuals' privacy by restricting the uses, including sale to third parties, to which companies and other bodies can put personal data banks. Data mines, as they are known in the trade, can be a menace. People object with reason when the paying of a utility bill results in a barrage of unsolicited leaflets peddling unrelated products and services, or when one gift to a charity leads to hundreds of envelopes from others. More seriously, people worry that information about them can be circulated without their consent to credit agencies or potential employers. But this legislation has a grave defect: unless its drafting is changed, it would inhibit huge areas of normal journalistic activity and bring a blanket law of press censorship.

The existing 1984 law already places some restrictions on data users who must be registered, operate within the terms of their registration and observe eight principles designed to protect personal data from abuse. It can be an offence, for example, to use their databases to market new businesses — which has already created problems for expanding companies. The 1995 EU Data Protection Directive of 1995 — which Britain is bound to implement although it voted against it — not only makes these restrictions much tougher: it gives "data subjects", those about whom information is held, explicit rights of access and control.

With exceptions for such areas as national security, criminal investigations or taxation, government and other data users will have to obtain the individual's "unambiguous" consent to hold or use paper or computer records on them. Where people have not themselves supplied the information, they must be told of its existence and will then have the right to see, correct or block its disclosure or use. There is a total ban on collecting "special categories" of information such as somebody's political or religious beliefs, ethnic origins or sex life, unless the person concerned has given "explicit consent".

All this may sound totally unobjectionable. But *The Times* is by no means engaged in special pleading when it cautions against the law of unintended consequences. Like the law of privacy which the Government has rightly rejected, these rights could easily be abused by those with money and lawyers and something to hide to silence all press investigation of their activities.

Consider what this law would mean in practice. Under Article 7, reporters would have to tell somebody that he was being in-

vestigated — and obtain his consent to collecting the facts. Under Articles 10 and 11, they would be obliged to notify the person of his right to see what information they held: such a right would betray the confidentiality of sources, including whistle-blowers. And under Article 14, that person could obtain a legal injunction blocking its publication. This would amount to prior censorship.

It is not only investigative journalism that would become a legal minefield. A generally uncontroversial media service, the compiling of obituaries, could fall foul of the clause prohibiting the collection of information on opinions, beliefs and origins. And although EU governments are allowed under Article 9 to make exemptions to the law for journalism or literature, this is only so far as they consider "necessary to reconcile the right to privacy with the rules governing freedom of expression". Through the EU side-door, this would usher in the privacy law which the Blair Government has rightly rejected.

The first and laudable instinct of Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office minister responsible, was to give the media a general exemption. But following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a Government fearful of being seen to be soft on the press backtracked. Home Office officials are now drafting exemptions for each article. It is imperative that exemptions be framed in the broadest of terms, that they entrench in all cases a public interest defence, and that they remove all possibility of pre-publication "gagging" injunctions.

But even then, anything short of a blanket exemption can offer no more than the freedom to "publish and be damned", with the prospect of court battles to determine the admissibility, case by case, of a public interest defence. A better method would be that of Finland, which exempts the media under Article 9 from all restrictions on the unpublished material they hold on file. To prevent this data ending up in the wrong hands, the media must satisfy the data protection ombudsman that their internal data protection systems are secure. But because the need to protect sources is recognised, they do not have to disclose what information they store.

As with privacy legislation, the Government's first thoughts were its best. Tony Blair should weigh carefully the fear of Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, that this law "would destroy journalism" in this country. A blanket exemption might not be popular, but only because its purpose would not be well understood. Mr Blair should reflect that the alternative could be worse than unpopular. This Government's principled commitment to freedom of information is here subjected to a critical test.

SORRY NOW

Blair and Labour need to learn the right lessons

A honeymoon of such length and intensity was bound to end in acrimony. Tony Blair was right to face the cameras at Chequers yesterday and wise to start with an apology. His appearance was a recognition of the damage that the Ecclestone affair had done to his Government. He noted that, in the wider scheme of things, the future of Formula One was a modest issue. That is true but it does not make it irrelevant. The Profumo affair, Westlands and "cash for questions" were not at the centre of British public policy either. They all had an impact on the Prime Minister associated with them.

However, Mr Blair's apology was less than absolute. Indeed at times — when he declared himself "furious", "hurt" and "upset" — he appeared to demand contrition from others in return. The Prime Minister declined to say sorry for either the decision to take the money or the process that led to it. On the former, he is on reasonable ground, on the latter he is far less certain.

The meeting with Mr Ecclestone at Downing Street was inevitably going to raise eyebrows. This is not because the new ethical climate makes it impossible for major donors to meet ministers. If the existence and scale of Mr Ecclestone's support had been public knowledge, then far less concern would have been forthcoming.

The Prime Minister had few qualms in disowning his party's presentational failures. He conceded that the manner in which information had "dribbled out" had

spawned unnecessary suspicion. It is, though, only part of the story. The various strands of this saga have not only been released slowly and with reluctance but the content was incomplete and at times contradictory. This continues to be true despite the Prime Minister's efforts.

The means by which British politics is financed has certainly caused much concern over the past decade. In his interview yesterday and on our pages opposite, Mr Blair makes plain his preference for a radical overhaul of the system. Much of what he outlines will strike many people as reasonable. Sir Patrick Neill, though, is right to stress the importance of all-party agreements. An exclusive regime of state funding has attracted relatively little enthusiasm. A fixed limit on individual donations may prove difficult to administer. Some sort of overall ceiling on what parties may spend in the course of the election campaign might emerge as the option worth exploration.

Mr Blair has decided to lead from the front in the effort to put the Ecclestone affair behind him. If no further revelations surface soon, then he may succeed in doing so. It is important that the Prime Minister learns the appropriate lessons from this drama. These should centre on really fundamental issues about the way Downing Street interacts with the rest of Whitehall. They are not primarily about an unduly cynical press, a poor public relations strategy, or the precise structure of current party funding practice.

BUTLER POWER

Paul Burrell is the best man to select the Diana memorial

No man is a hero to his valet. No, nor no princess either a heroine to her butler. But butlers and valets are the unsung and offstage heroes. That is their function. They are among the select few to be admitted to the private reality behind the public masks of ceremony and razzmatazz. So the appointment of Paul Burrell to serve on the Diana Memorial Committee is a rare instance of life imitating art. For once the butler is being consulted officially rather than behind the scenes. Jeeves would have approved.

For ten years Mr Burrell was the butler and confidant of the late Princess of Wales. She described him as her rock, and said, for once with more realism than romance: "He is the only man I can trust." He was the only outsider, not a member of her family, to attend her burial at Althorp. In recognition of his devotion, last week he was invested with the Royal Victorian Medal. Now he has been appointed to the committee of ten to

choose a permanent memorial for the Princess. Announcing that the committee was being set up, Tony Blair said that it would look at ways of "taking forward some of the causes she held dear".

But this is a problematic assignment. The committee will work with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which has received millions of pounds. In addition, the Government is going to hand over more than £2.5 million in VAT receipts earned from Elton John's top of all pops *Candle in the Wind* record. Ministers have received many thousands of letters suggesting how Diana should be commemorated. So whatever is decided is bound to disappoint many and be controversial to most.

In these circumstances of high emotion above stairs, the Government is following wise precedents of fact, folklore and fiction. When in doubt, consult the butler as the discreet insider who really knows.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ecclestone refund and party sleaze

From Mr John Stott

Sir, Mr Bernie Ecclestone tells us, in his letter of November 14, that he made a donation to the Labour Party because he believed "Mr Blair to be a person of exceptional ability who, if free to act, would do an outstanding job for our country".

Surely he now sees that he is entitled to his money back. Every last penny.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. STOTT,
Black House, Coppenhall, Stafford.
jcs@blackhouse.demon.co.uk
November 14.

From Mr John Warne

Sir, Would Mr Bernie Ecclestone and Mr Max Mosley have had the privilege of putting their case for special treatment personally to the Prime Minister on October 16 if he had not given the Labour Party £1 million or so earlier this year?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARNE,
16 Carlton Mews,
Wells, Somerset.
November 14.

From Mr Howard Leigh

Sir, The disclosure by Bernie Ecclestone of an annual personal tax bill of £27 million implies an income of some £68 million. Presumably all or most of that is deemed to be essentially from Formula One racing.

The accounts of his Formula One Promotions and Administration Ltd shows directors' remuneration of some £55 million. In Mr Ecclestone's special pleadings to the Prime Minister one would hope the point was made to him that the industry could survive happily if such huge sums were not extracted for personal benefit.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD LEIGH
(Director),
Cavendish Corporate Finance Ltd,
12 Cavendish Place, W1.
November 14.

From Mr Denis Meehan

Sir, Your leader, "Disillusion day" (November 14), strikes me as grossly unfair. The Labour Party in opposition voluntarily adopted a procedure of disclosing the names of individuals and companies donating sums in excess of £5,000, a procedure which it carried over into government. This in itself was a powerful disincentive to corruption and influence-peddling.

The Conservative Party, by contrast, remains secretive about donors. To suggest equivalence of secrecy and sleaze between the two parties is simply not credible.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS MEEHAN,
238 Upper Richmond Road, SW15.
November 14.

From Mr John Urwin

Sir, By offering to return Bernie Ecclestone's donation the Labour Party has shown that it will put the country's exports and highly skilled engineering jobs ahead of party funding.

Giving Formula One time to find alternative sponsors shows that the party has a grasp of reality lamentably lacking amongst the chattering classes, who would be advised to move on to a more interesting story.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN URWIN (engineer),
1 Newlands Close,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
hy26@ial.pipex.com
November 14.

From Mr Roger Hicks

Sir, I, too, feel I have fared well under the current Government. I wonder whether Sir Patrick Neill would instruct the Treasury to repay to me the taxes I have contributed since the election. In order to avoid any allegations of sleaze.

Yours etc,
ROGER HICKS,
68 Deer Park Drive,
Arnold, Nottingham.
November 14.

From Mr Hugh Long

Sir, I suggest a new rival to the euro: the high-denomination Bernie, with its unique distinction of being refundable.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH LONG,
67 Dartmouth Park Road, NWS.
November 15.

From Mrs Mary Beard

Sir, My father, who was for many years an engineer and administrator with the South Indian railway, used to recount with great admiration the story of a local magistrate who had an enviable reputation for fair-mindedness. When asked how he had achieved this, the magistrate is said to have replied:

I always accepted the bribes offered from both sides, then I would consider the case on its merits and return the bribe to the side which I found against.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BEARD,
Dromard House,
Kesh, Co Fermanagh.
November 12.

Nolan or Downey: whose rules apply to MPs' conduct?

From Professor Anthony King

Sir, The House of Commons will be debating on Monday the Standards and Privileges Committee's report on the Neil Hamilton affair. As a member of the former Nolan committee I must say there seems to be considerable confusion about the original Nolan recommendations and the procedure subsequently adopted by the House committee.

The Nolan committee's report in 1995 envisaged a three-stage process when accusations of misconduct were brought against MPs. The independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards would first investigate and decide whether there was a case to answer. If he concluded there was, it would be heard by a special sub-committee of the Standards and Privileges Committee. If the sub-committee found against the member, he or she could appeal to the full committee (and ultimately to the House).

No one would be on trial; but the rough analogy the Nolan committee had in mind was Crown Prosecution Service, court of first instance, appeal court.

The Commons in 1995 adopted the broad Nolan approach, but the Standards and Privileges Committee in the last Parliament decided against setting up a special sub-committee. Instead, in the case of Mr Hamilton

and the 24 other MPs, it decided that the Parliamentary Commissioner should function, on the rough judicial analogy, as both investigating magistrate and court of first instance.

Sir Gordon Downey's terms of reference were precise. He was asked to inquire into allegations of misconduct against Mr Hamilton and others "with a view to establishing whether there had been any breach of House of Commons rules, in the letter or in the spirit". The House committee agreed in detail the procedures Sir Gordon was to follow.

Sir Gordon subsequently concluded that there had indeed been a breach of the rules. So far as I can make out, he did not exceed the brief given to him by the committee in the old House and has not, at any rate publicly, been accused of so doing: nor is it suggested that there was any material defect in the procedure he followed.

Given what has happened since, it seems to me, speaking only for myself, not for the members of what is now the Neill committee, that the House and the Standards and Privileges Committee need to decide how they want to operate in future. They can either revert to the procedures originally envisaged by Nolan (and be prepared on occasion to conduct lengthy and detailed investigations), or they can regularise the position they have adopted in the Hamilton

case and others, that the Parliamentary Commissioner conducts a detailed investigation and comes to firm conclusions.

In the latter case, the committee would presumably exercise a broadly "judicial review" function and reject the Parliamentary Commissioner's report only if his procedures had been seriously flawed or his findings manifestly unsafe and unsatisfactory.

The committee in the Hamilton case has, in effect, followed the latter of the two procedures. It has clearly concluded that Sir Gordon Downey's procedures were not seriously flawed and his findings not unsafe and unsatisfactory. But for some reason it has been reluctant to say in so many words that it has performed this kind of judicial review function — an omission that leaves it and the commissioner in an ambiguous and unsatisfactory position.

Certainly the committee seems to hold that view. As it says in its report, it now needs "to assess its own role in relation to inquiries conducted by the commissioner". In my view, it should undertake that assessment as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY KING,
The Mill House, Middle Green,
Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex.
November 14.

Action on climate change is essential

From the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Sir, I find it amazing that Bronwen Maddox ("Europe should learn from US stance on tackling pollution", *Business*, November 13) questions the need for action on climate change. Governments across the world, including President Clinton's Administration, accept that it is potentially one of the most serious global problems we face. I could take issue with many of the other points which Ms Maddox raises. Let me restrict myself to three.

First, as was clear from my press briefing after I met Vice-President Gore in Washington last week, the UK has not "derailed" the US position on climate change. Indeed, I welcomed the President's proposal and recognised the difficult domestic political situation that he and the Vice-President face.

At the same time I made clear that we and our European colleagues would like to see more from the US. In particular, if we want the poor developing countries to play a bigger role in the way that the US Congress is pressing for, the rich developed countries must do better than simply delay by 10 years the promises we made at Rio.

Second, action on climate change need not harm economic growth. President Clinton has rightly pointed to the job opportunities that his proposed measures will create in the United States. Action in Britain will lead to a better transport system, better insulated homes, healthier cities

and a more energy efficient industry.

Third, I agree that flexible mechanisms, which give credit for action by developed countries in developing countries, can play a useful part. But, as President Clinton himself again recognises, domestic action is also necessary. At present the average American is responsible for 25 times more emissions than the average Indian. That gap is not sustainable in the long term if globalisation is to lead to a better and fairer world for all.

Climate change cannot be dealt with, as Ms Maddox suggests, simply by "waiting and seeing" the harmful effects of global warming and "building walls round Bangladesh". It threatens all of us with future droughts, floods and crop losses that have the potential for massive human and financial misery.

That is why the UK Government, together with our European colleagues, is working so hard for constructive agreement at Kyoto next month. That is why I am about to embark on a second major foreign tour to prepare the ground for the conference. The strong political will shown by developed countries at the preparatory meeting I chaired in Tokyo last week encourages me to think that agreement can be reached. The world needs such an agreement, and it will be even more important for our children than it will be for us.

Contacts with Iraq

From the Director-General of the International School of Geneva

Sir, If the British Government still has a policy towards Iraq I hope those who are responsible for it will have read Simon Jenkins's excellent article of November 12, "Exploding the myth" (*Letters*, November 14).

I have seen the effects in Baghdad of economic sanctions and of so-called clinical strikes. Jenkins is right to conclude that neither can be justified on moral or pragmatic grounds.

His "contact strategy" offers a radical alternative, which is why this school continues to maintain contact, despite all the logistical difficulties, with Baghdad International School, set up by the United Nations in the early Eighties.

It is a pity that a new Foreign Secretary has failed to reflect on the psychology of isolation and missed the opportunity to rethink a discredited policy that has achieved exactly the opposite effect of that intended.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALKER,
Director-General,
The International School of Geneva,
62 route de Chêne,
1208 Geneva,
November 14.

I bank, therefore . . .

From Mr Michael Pollard

Sir, Mrs Irene Draper (letter, November 5; see also letters, November 8) should follow the example of a dear family friend (now long departed) who, on reaching a certain age, received a letter requiring "proof of existence" from her insurance company.

Her response was that she had no intention of wasting people's time asking for letters proving her continued existence, but if they felt her letter was insufficient proof and decided to stop paying her annuity she would have pleasure in meeting them in court over the matter.

She had no further problem.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POLLARD,
2 Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon.
November 8.

From Mr Leonard Harrington

Sir, Some years ago, when living abroad, a friend had his car stolen. When the insurance company asked could he prove the vehicle was stolen he sent them a photograph of his empty garage.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD HARRINGTON,
38 Lovelace Road, Surbiton, Surrey.
November 15.

From Mr W. D. Cormie

Sir, It is for Mrs Draper's bankers to furnish proof of her existence. After all, it is they who have her money.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. CORMIE,
Dix's Black Hill,
Lindfield, West Sussex.

Coping with Christmas

From Mr R. F. Mountjoy

Sir, Surely the appropriate date for a day-long seminar for people who can't cope with Christmas ("Cool Yule tips", in brief, November 12) is December 25.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MOUNTJOY,
21 Whittingham Gardens,
Brighton, East Sussex.
November 12.

Seeing stars

From Mr R. W. Mellor, Feng

Sir, Flag topsy-turvy (letter, November 14)? Today's topical tip: toggle to the top.

R. W. MELLOR,
The Red House, West Hanningfield,
Chelmsford, Essex.
November 15.

Opera crisis

From Mr Alberto Remedios

Sir, The solution to the current opera crisis (letters, November 5 & 12, 15) is not to merge the three companies but to sweep away their managements in a great purge, to be replaced by people who appreciate the worth of British singers, British musicians and British directors, designers and technicians.

When Sadler's Wells Opera — of which I had been a member since 1955 — moved to the London Coliseum in 1968, we were of course rivals to the Royal Opera; but no one thought of it that way. I was a guest artist with Covent Garden and had a contract with Sadler's Wells/ENO; and it was from the latter that many young British singers, like myself, were taken up by the Royal Opera.

In those days British singers were employed in major opera houses all over the world, where the best of them

are still in great demand. Where they cannot be seen so often is on the stages in their own country, on which — due chiefly to mismanagement and the lack of funds for training — they are often replaced by "international" artists of dubious talent.

The management of both the ROH and ENO should have been more financially prudent. They should not have accepted their large salaries and committed their organisations to unnecessary overheads — advisers, assistants, assistants' assistants and whizzkid directors with a free reign to squander as much taxpayers' money as they liked on audience-losing stage productions.

Would that at least some of all this money had been put into the training of young artists.

Yours faithfully,
ALBERTO REMEDIOS,
27 The Ridgeway, Southgate, N14.
November 15.

Turkish question

From Mr Kenneth Morgan

Sir, When the International Federation of Journalists Congress met in Istanbul in 1972 the first four speakers on press freedom, all Turkish, predictably and prudently relied heavily on Kemal Ataturk for inspiration and quotation (letters, November 10, 13).

Speaking fifth, on the "when in Rome" principle, I managed to dredge up and drag in one Ataturk sentiment. The sixth speaker, the president of the American Newspaper Guild, Charles A. Ferlik III, began briskly, to warm applause: "As that great democrat and lover of liberty Thomas Ataturk Jefferson once said . . ."

Yours etc,
KENNETH MORGAN
(General secretary, National Union of Journalists, 1970-77),
151 Overhill Road, Dulwich, SE22.
November 14.

Human Rights Bill

From Professor Emeritus Philip S. James

Sir, I noted with dismay the view expressed by the Editor of *FT Business Law Europe* (letter, November 10) that the judiciary should be allowed the final say about claims to "human rights".

Respectfully, I beg to differ. I feel that to take such a course would be to draw the judiciary more than is absolutely necessary into the political arena. And it would certainly deprive the public of such little say as they still enjoy in relation to the conduct of their own affairs through the arbitration of Parliament. Surely the crux of this argument is this: whether, with Lincoln, we still believe that the voice of the people should continue to be heard, or whether we choose to replace the divine right of kings with the infallibility of judges.

Do our vociferous libertarians never stop to think how often liberties can be self-defeating?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP S. JAMES,
Chestnut View,
Mill Lane, Whitfield,
Brackley, Northamptonshire.
November 11.

Business letters, page 50
Sport letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

Georges Marchais, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, 1972-94, died yesterday aged 77. He was born on June 7, 1920.

Georges Marchais had the unenviable fate of leading the French Communists during a period of steady decline in their popular support. In his efforts to combat the growing ascendancy of the Socialists, he conducted policy through a series of U-turns which bewildered his own rank-and-file and drew derision from his critics. First, in 1972, he formed an alliance with the Socialist Party (PS), but then broke with it in 1977-78 and moved the Communist Party (PCF) back into isolation.

When the Socialists won power in 1981, he accepted PCF participation in their Government while surreptitiously still working to undermine them; then in 1984 he pulled the party out of the Government. When Mikhail Gorbachev took power in Moscow, Marchais paid lip-service to perestroika but did nothing to apply it within PCF ranks. Whereas in the 1970s he had sometimes appeared as a "liberal" wishing to democratise the party, he later stuck to a hard conservative position and rejected all attempts at reform. This bluff proletarian showed in public an almost comical pugnacity, which helped to make him into a national television star. But though a wily political opera-

tor, he lacked either intellectual gifts or any real statesman-like vision.

Marchais was born in Normandy, at La Houque near Falaise, his father was a quarryman and his mother from a Roman Catholic peasant family. He did poorly at school, where he is said to have developed an inferiority complex that was to mark him for life. His early adult years today remain cloaked in mystery. He certainly never joined the Resistance, and in 1942 he went to work as an aircraft mechanic at a Messerschmidt plant near Augsburg. There is some evidence that he went voluntarily — far from being deported, as was later claimed — and his political enemies made much of this distinctly unheroic war record.

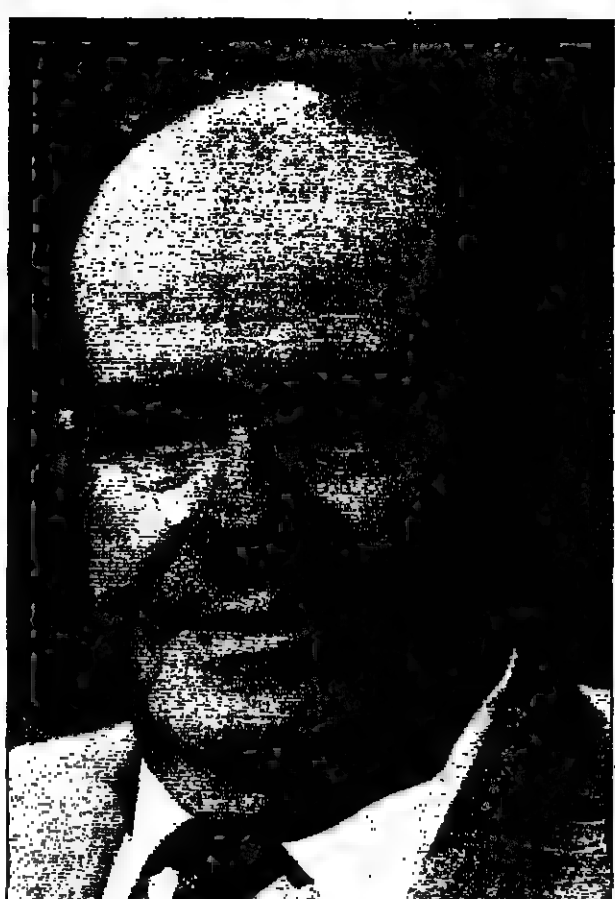
He did not join the PCF until the relatively late age of 27. Soon he was active in the Communist-led trade union, CGT. Here he was spotted by Maurice Thorez, the PCF leader, who trained him and put him into the party apparatus, where he took to bureaucracy as a duck to water. He rose rapidly, becoming Organising Secretary in 1961. And when in 1969 the Secretary-General, Waldeck Rochet, fell seriously ill, Marchais effectively took charge of the party.

It was under the influence of two senior colleagues, Jean Kanaris and Charles Fiterman, that in 1972 he opted for the path of liberalising the PCF's image, of loosening its allegiance to Moscow and moving it closer to the PS. So he signed the Joint Pro-

gramme of alliance with the then still fragile PS, believing that the PCF could safely dominate it. He pledged a new, fully democratic party that would accept the principle of alternation of power. He formed close links with the Italian Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer, thus launching the vogue for a "Euro-Communism" separate from Moscow. He grew openly critical of the Soviet Union on such issues as human rights, and in 1976 presided over a PCF Congress that jettisoned the key Marxist concept of the "dictatorship of the proletariat".

The Joint Programme worked smoothly for a while, until the Communists realised that it was benefiting the Socialists more than themselves. So in 1977, urged on by the Stalinists in his ranks, Marchais made the boldest of his U-turns: he virtually broke off the alliance. His motives? Above all he was afraid of the PCF entering a Government of the Left as the weaker partner, and of its being obliged to acquiesce in "social democratic" policies. The result of the breach was that the Left lost the 1978 elections, which hitherto it had seemed set to win.

This caused dismay among those of the party rank-and-file who felt that their leaders had robbed them of victory. Some "dissident" liberals resigned in disgust, or they were pushed out by Marchais, who now led the party firmly back into its "ghetto" of domestic isolation and rebuilt his bridges with the Soviet Union. On a visit to



Moscow in January 1980 he publicly backed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. At home, he repeatedly sniped at the Socialists under Mitterrand, accusing them of shifting the line.

He pursued this theme as PCF candidate in the presidential election campaign of April 1981. But it rebounded against him. He polled a mere 15.4 per cent, much the lowest Communist score since the war — a clear sign that his erratic tactics were alienating part of his own electorate.

After Mitterrand formed his Socialist Government, Marchais and his colleagues felt that

they had little choice but to accept his offer of PCF posts in it. But they remained warily critical partners and in 1984 they withdrew from it, angered by Mitterrand's policy shifts towards the centre. Marchais declared that he had made a mistake in ever trusting the Socialists.

After this, he held the party to a hard Stalinist line, and managed to thwart all efforts by Charles Fiterman, Pierre Juquin and other reformers to introduce a more open, modern and democratic structure, on the Italian Communist model. The result was a continued erosion of PCF fortunes: in the 1988 general election it polled only 11 per cent, and by 1993 its support had fallen below 10 per cent. For this Marchais was continually criticised within his own ranks, and repeated attempts were made to oust him, but they failed.

When communism was overthrown in Eastern Europe in 1989-90, Marchais tried artfully to parade as a champion of reform: "I feel very close to Gorbachev," he said in January 1990, and he claimed that he had been "duped" by the hardline Communist leaders in the East. But his failure to act on these lessons lost him yet more credibility. His political cynicism had never inspired confidence: now it did so less than ever.

And yet, amazingly, in December 1990 he was unanimously re-elected party leader. He had managed to surround himself with loyal apparatchiks, his grip on the party

machine was tight, and he was always an astute manipulator. This enabled him to overcome even stiff dissent. He himself had no clear ideology, save an instinct for his own survival, which he equated with that of the party. He was, it is true, a staunch French patriot, with nationalistic views on such matters as defence. But he saw no incompatibility between this and his belief that the PCF, domestically isolated, had need of the firm support of Moscow.

After 1981 he was seemingly reconciled to the view that the PCF's own electoral decline was irreversible, that power would not come via the ballot-box, and that therefore the best strategy was to consolidate a secure, if narrow, working-class base and to wait for eventual victory via the steady global expansion of the Soviet Union and the slow but sure death of capitalism.

Marchais' personality did not make him ideally suited to leading the PCF during this difficult period. In public he had a show-off, histrionic manner, especially in TV debates, where he would fly into feigned rages and parade brazen untruths. This provocative spectacle won him high TV ratings — higher even than soccer matches. But it also made him faintly ridiculous. With his square jaw, bushy eyebrows and staring eyes, he had the air of a man with a knife between his teeth.

But behind this ebullient facade he was really a timid individual, frequently feeling under threat and thus reacting

aggressively. He feared and disliked intellectuals; unlike previous PCF leaders such as Thorez, he was a philistine, ill at ease with ideas. Certainly he could identify with his own working class, its travails and aspirations; but he lacked the ability to communicate with the educated middle classes, and this proved a limitation.

Marchais, for all his faults, was by no means the frigid bureaucrat he was jovial among his cronies, kind to his true friends, and capable of generous impulse and sincere emotion, to the point of sentimentality — sometimes he would weep in public. He adored jolly crowds and blaring music, beer and wine festivals, and his pleasures and interests were those of the true French working man — football and la chasse, comic strips and popular love-songs.

In an ordinary job, he would probably have proved a likeable, respected, easygoing comrade. But the ruthless world of higher party politics brought out the worst in him. He will go into history as one of the less effective of Europe's postwar left-wing leaders. He stepped down as leader of the PCF in January 1994, handing over to Robert Hue, who has tried to steer a more modern and moderate course.

Georges Marchais was twice married. He had three daughters by his first wife, Paulette Noëtinger, whom he married in 1941 and from whom he was divorced, and a son by his second, Liliane Grelot, whom he married in 1977.

LADY TRYON

Lady Tryon, society hostess and dress designer, died from septicaemia in hospital in London on November 15 aged 49. She was born in Melbourne on January 3, 1948.

A COLOURFUL ornament to English society for more than two decades, Dale "Kanga" Tryon was a woman of great spirit and determination. She needed — and showed — those qualities in extra measure in the last years of her life, as a succession of illnesses and misfortunes turned her from a darling of the gossip columns into an object of almost morbid fascination. Her private battles of the 1990s — first with the recurrence of the spinal bifida she had suffered as a child; then with uterine cancer; then with paralysis after a fall — were all bravely fought in the full glare of media attention.

The public interest was explained by her role as a longstanding friend and confidante of the Prince of Wales, who was widely and frequently quoted as having called her "the only woman who really understands me". It was he who gave her the nickname Kanga — a name which stuck and which was later to provide the label for her dress collection — and after her marriage to Lord Tryon, one of his oldest friends, he became the godfather to their first son.

An accomplished hostess, Lady Tryon managed for many years to combine a hectic social life in London and Wiltshire with a career as a fashion designer and a mother of four. She was also active on the charity circuit, serving for a time as vice-chairman of the mental health charity SANE; Prince Charles once played in a polo match to help her to raise funds.

Dale Elizabeth Harper, as she was before her marriage, was born with a mild form of spinal bifida and was unable to walk until she was nine. She spent three years in hospital, and her father, a wealthy Australian publisher, built a special bed for her so that she could be wheeled around.

Resolutely courageous even from an early age, by the time

she was ten she had thrown away her canisters and crutches and was walking unaided — even riding horses. She was, however, to suffer from back pain all her life, and in later years would have a number of operations to rebuild her spine.

She first met Prince Charles at a teenage dance in Melbourne, while he was a temporary pupil at the Geelong Grammar School in 1966. She was not to meet him again until she came to England to be "finished" in the early 1970s. She worked for a time in London as a PR for the Qantas airline and as an assistant at *Woman's Weekly* magazine.

While in London, she was introduced to one of Prince Charles's friends, Anthony Tryon. A merchant banker almost ten years her senior, son of the Keeper of the Privy Purse and himself a former page of honour to the Queen, he was known by his friends as "Lord Ummum" for the way he would finish his sentences. When Dale Harper returned to Australia, he followed and asked for her hand.

They were married in 1973 at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. Their first child, a daughter, was born the year after their marriage. A son, whose godfather was the Prince of Wales, followed two years later. Twins were born at the end of the decade.

The family remained a base in London, but the children were brought up in a fairly modest house on the 2,000-acre Tryon estate at Great Durnford in Wiltshire. Later, thanks in no small part to Lady Tryon's enterprise, they were able to move back into the ancestral home, a large Queen Anne manor house which had had to be let out as a girls' school.

Lord Tryon worked for the merchant bank Lazards. In the early 1980s Lady Tryon, not content with the role of weekend wife in the country, used £2,000 of her savings to open a London dress shop, which she called Kanga, in Beauchamp Place, off Knightsbridge. Some of the dresses she stocked — one size, non-crushable, drip-dry, flouncy creations — were inspired by her own busy life-



style, which involved frequent flights to visit her family in Australia. Selling what Lady Tryon called "outfits for women with real figures, not six-foot models", the shop was a success, and in 1985 its own design label was launched, also called Kanga.

What had started as a hobby turned into a thriving international business, with an annual turnover of more

than £1 million. Despite often excruciating back pain, Lady Tryon found herself travelling constantly between Hong Kong and Italy and New York, visiting other branches of her company.

She also developed a lucrative sideline, buying, converting and selling London property. Then, after her husband had lost his job as a director of Lazards, she be-

came the chief financial support of her family.

Lady Tryon remained close to Prince Charles throughout his bachelor days, and was even said to have vetted his girlfriends, assessing their suitability as potential royal brides. A shared passion for fly-fishing continued to provide a link after the Prince's marriage in 1981, and the Princess of Wales was among Lady Tryon's fashionable customers.

Lady Tryon, not normally reclusive, remained notably loyal and discreet when the strains in the royal marriage began to become known. There were those, however, who thought that she resented the prominence of Camilla Parker Bowles in Prince Charles's life, particularly after his divorce, and who accused her of making too much of her own closeness to the Prince, which belonged largely to the past.

By then, however, she had more serious troubles than gossip to contend with. In 1992 she went through several gruelling operations to rebuild the top of her spine with cow bones. Shortly afterwards it was discovered that she had uterine cancer which had spread to her kidneys. She fought courageously and was eventually given the all-clear.

In 1996, however, she was admitted to Farm Place, a private rehabilitation clinic near Dorchester, apparently to recuperate from exhaustion and depression. There she suffered a fall from an upper window which left her with a broken back and fractured skull; she was subsequently confined to a wheelchair.

In June of this year she was detained for 28 days under the Mental Health Act and in July Lord Tryon applied for a High Court order banning her from the family estate. In September she was granted a decree nisi. The decree absolute hearing had been deferred at the time of Lady Tryon's death, which came after a skin graft operation, reportedly to repair bed sores sustained during a recent bout of alternative therapy in India.

Lord Tryon survives her with their two sons and two daughters.

DICK HALL

Richard Hall, journalist, died on November 14 aged 72. He was born on July 22, 1925.

IN THE days when *The Observer*, under its Editor David Astor, led the world in its coverage of foreign affairs, Dick Hall was one of its best correspondents. His territory was Africa, and he reported on it with knowledge, insight and passion.

A close friend of Kenneth Kaunda in Zambia, he launched a newspaper there in the late 1950s, and was the first Editor of the *Times of Zambia* after independence. He covered the troublespots of Africa, and prided himself on a number of notable scoops. He reported the vicious colonial war in the Congo in the early 1960s, and was there when Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was killed in an air crash in 1961. He was a passionate protagonist of the Biafrans, and was the last correspondent to leave before their flight for independence was lost. He drew on these experiences and his unbeatable network of contacts to write several books, and to launch an influential newsletter, *Africa Analysis*.

Richard Hall was born in Margate, where his father made a shaky living running boat-trips for holidaymakers before emigrating to Australia, where the boy was born, and shortly afterwards abandoned by both him and his mother. Hall's early years were spent on Bondi Beach, but when he was eight he and his mother, a strong and resourceful woman, returned to England.

Educated at Hastings Grammar School, he began his career on the *Evening Argus* in Sussex where he earned 7s 6d a week with 2s 6d bicycle allowance. He joined the Navy and did war service as a decoder in the Mediterranean, damaging his eyesight in the process. It was during this time that he met his first wife Barbara Taylor, a Wren from Derbyshire, also a decoder.

After leaving the Navy he went up to Keble College, Oxford, where among his friends were Kenneth Tynan



and Anthony Sampson. Later he joined the *Daily Mail*, where he worked with Derek Ingram, but found domestic reporting restricting.

Having a strong entrepreneurial streak, and a spirit of adventure, he went out to Northern Rhodesia in 1955, where he ran some house magazines for the copper mines, before launching the *Central African Mail*, with help from David Astor who supplied a printing press. The paper was taken over after independence, but Hall, who by now was friendly with Kenneth Kaunda, became the Editor of the *Times of Zambia*. It was there that he came into contact with Tiny Rowland, who owned the paper.

In 1957 political pressures forced him to leave Zambia, and he returned to Britain to work for *The Observer*, where he stayed for 19 years as a foreign correspondent, covering not only African but Commonwealth news with distinction and courage. Hall had always asserted that during his time in Zambia Rowland had never interfered with

his editorial independence, so when he launched his controversial bid for ownership of *The Observer*, Hall supported him. He may have hoped to be editor, but the job was retained by Donald Treflow. Rowland may have found Hall's obstinate sense of independence a barrier.

Gradually, Hall began to believe that Rowland was not, after all, the ideal proprietor, and in 1986 he left to found *Africa Analysis*, which combines business and political expertise, and has gone on to become a great commercial success. He wrote several books, including a controversial account of his friendship with Rowland: *Lovers on the Nile*, and, last year, *Empires of the Monsoon*, a history of the Indian Ocean.

He leaves his widow and the five sons of his first marriage.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Richard Bending, Vicar, Buckden (Ely); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Hall Weston (same diocese).
The Rev Elizabeth Boughton, formerly Chaplain, St Catherine's School, Bramley (Guildford); to be NSM Assistant Curate, Fitcham St Mary (same diocese).
The Rev Adele Chettle, with permission to officiate (Hereford); to be NSM Curate, Burghill and Stretton Sugwas (same diocese).
The Rev Richard Cooper, Vicar, Aldborough w Boroughbridge and Roedfield (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
The Rev Andrew Duff, Team Vicar, Priestwood St Andrew, Breckford Team (Oxford); to be Chaplain to the Forces.
The Rev Philip Dykes, formerly Curate-in-Charge, Bishop Andrews St Helier (Winchester); to be Team Vicar, Camberley St Paul (Guildford).
The Rev Brian Gillett, formerly Rector, Kingsmead w Clapham and Thrusdon (Hereford); to be Vicar.

Baltonborough w Butleigh and West Bradley (Bath & Wells).
The Rev Peter Haddleton, Team Vicar, Hereford South Wye Team (Hereford); to be Team Rector, same benefice.
The Rev Robin Harvey, Rector, East Harptree w West Harptree and Hinton Blewett (Bath & Wells); to be Chaplain, University of Surrey (Guildford).
The Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Assistant Curate, Walsall St Matthew (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Boldmere St Michael (Birmingham).
The Rev David Izzard, Curate, East Bristol (Bristol); to be Vicar, Sea Mills St Edyth (same diocese).
The Rev Simon Lloyd, with permission to officiate (Birmingham); to be Team Vicar, Solihull with special responsibility for Solihull St Michael (Birmingham).
The Rev Sheila Nunn, Assistant Curate, Caversham and Maplehurst (Oxford); to be Priest-in-Charge, Fitchampstead St James (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Roberts, Vicar, Camberwell St George, and Warden, Trinity College Centre (Southwark); to be also Rural Dean of Camberwell (same diocese).
The Rev Graham Smith, Rector, Leeds Team (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
The Rev Anne Stratford, NSM, Oswestry (Lichfield); to be Priest-in-Charge, Ford, and Albury w Cardston (Hereford).
The Rev Peter Swain, Priest-in-Charge, Bromfield, Waverton and Westnewton, and Rural Dean of Solway (Carlisle); to be Team Rector, Leominster (Hereford).
The Rev Peter Swales, Priest-in-Charge, Horsley (Derby); to be also Rural Dean of Hexon (same diocese).
The Rev Alan Taylor, Vicar, Leeds St Aidan (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
The Rev Sally Vandyck, NSM, Chertsey St Peter (Guildford); to be

NSM Curate, Ross Team, and Lion Group (Hereford).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Paul Barlow, NSM, Walford, Bishopswood, Goodrich, Marston and Welsh Bicknor (Hereford) resigned October 17, with permission to officiate (same diocese).
The Rev Peter Brightman, NSM Curate, Widcombe (Bath & Wells) resigned August 31 for health reasons.
The Rev Michael Duvall, NSM Curate, Selworthy, Timberscombe, Wootton Courtenay and Luccombe (Bath & Wells) retired September 30.
The Rev Peter East, Vicar, Wiveliscombe w Chipstable, Huish Champflower and Clawworthy (Bath & Wells) resigned September 28.
The Rev John Yeend, Vicar, West Molesey (Guildford) retired October 31.
Other appointments
Mr Colin Sheppard, Deputy Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary, to be Diocesan Secretary (York).

DEVASTATION IN PAKISTAN

From Arnold Zeifitz
Over Bhola Island, Pakistan, Nov 16.
The devastation is virtually complete in the southern half of this battered island which took the full impact of last week's cyclone and tidal waves which, according to estimates, swept hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths. The relief commissioner in Dacca said today that according to an official confirmed count 32,871 people died as a result of the storm. But other officials made mention of a death toll of between 300,000 and 500,000.

Most bodies have been buried in mass graves. Survivors spotted from the air in the 800 sq. mile area hardest hit wandered on high ground above the water which still covered much of the flat land. Blood from crushed cattle stained the fields where their carcasses were flung. The survivors, having buried most of the dead themselves in an area where relief is still scarce, were seen dragging huge bloated cattle carcasses to

ON THIS DAY

November 17, 1970

A combination of cyclone and 20ft tidal waves swept peasants in East Pakistan to their deaths by the scores of thousands

from the aircraft it was possible to smell the odour of death, but the pilot said the situation had improved on that of two days ago when the small island made pilots vomit and then take sleeping pills after their flights over the area.

Water and wind had crushed an area in which Bengali farmers lived, clustered in tree-shaded communities with a density of 600 to a square mile. Most home sites remained, but corrugated iron roofs had fallen on the ground. The land is perfectly flat, much of it already dyked to prevent the sea from over-running it. Nothing was seen which could have blocked the 20ft tidal waves. There was no place anyone could have sought shelter. A whole village has disappeared as if sucked up by a huge vacuum cleaner, leaving only muddy outlines of house foundations. The enormous force of wind and water was seen clearly on a tiny island between Hatia and Bhola, where a cargo ship of 500 tons had been raised from sea and set upright on the shore 50 yards inland. No living person was seen on board.

NOVEMBER 17

RADIO & TV

Preview
BBC
23.00
Radio 4

OPINION

Poisoned chalice

The British
government
is not doing
enough to
prevent the
spread of
mad cow
disease

Sorry now

It is time to
apologise to
the victims of
the 1994 World
Cup

Butler power

The British
government
is not doing
enough to
prevent the
spread of
mad cow
disease

COLUMNS

TONY BLAIR

As I write, the
Prime Minister
is in the States
for the World
Cup

PETER RIDDELL

It is time to
apologise to
the victims of
the 1994 World
Cup

WILLIAM REES-MOORE

It is time to
apologise to
the victims of
the 1994 World
Cup

OBITUARY

George Martin

LETTER

Re: George Martin

THE PAPER

Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin

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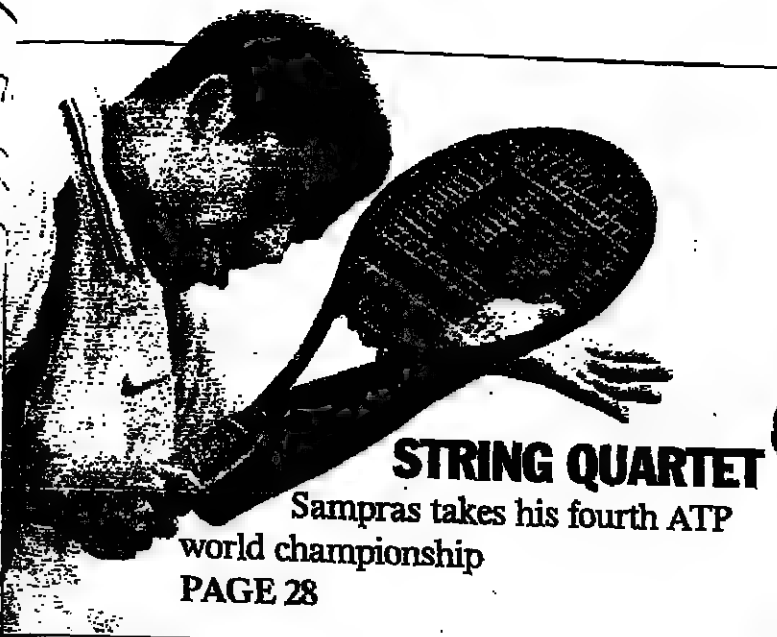
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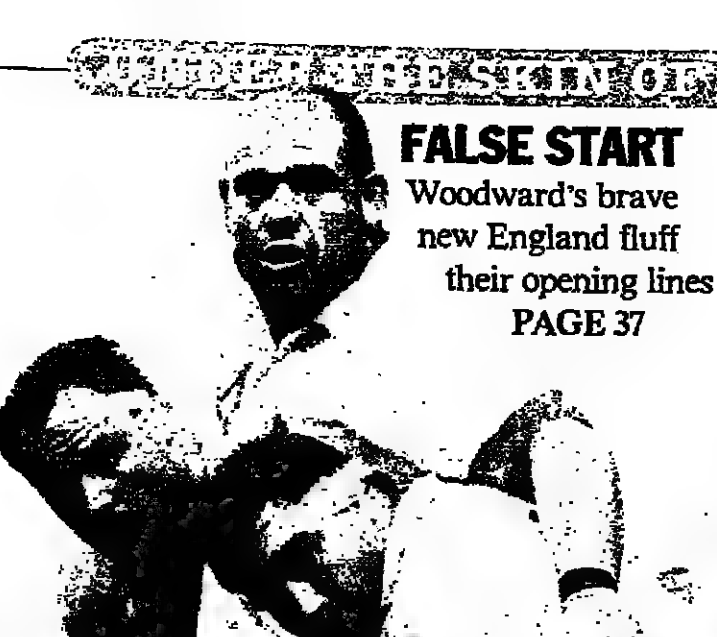
Re: George Martin

Re: George Martin



STRING QUARTET

Sampras takes his fourth ATP world championship
PAGE 28



FALSE START

Woodward's brave new England fluff their opening lines
PAGE 37



A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Australia put Britain to flight at Elland Road
PAGE 29

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

DELIGHT AND DESPAIR RANK HIGH ON THE ROAD TO FRANCE

England demand to be ranked with best

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE qualifying competition entered its eleventh hour last night, and the composition of next summer's World Cup finals grew close to completion, Glenn Hoddle called for Fifa, football's world governing body, to recognise the importance of its own world rankings before it decides whether to make England one of the top eight seeds for the tournament in France.

As Japan, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Belgium and Italy celebrated their inclusion in the 32-nation jamboree, and Ireland mourned their play-off elimination, the England coach was fretting over his side's chances of avoiding the giants of the game in the final group stages.

If Fifa persists with the seeding system it used to determine the leading teams at the start of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups and calculates it on results in the previous three tournaments, England would be excluded from the top eight seeds because of their failure to qualify for the last competition four years ago.

On that basis, England would

Ireland fall short	30
Sweeping changes	31
Merson shines	32
Fulham coast through	33
Results and tables	34

lose out to teams such as Italy, Argentina, Holland and Belgium in the quest for top seedings. They would fall into the second rank and face the prospect of being matched with favourites for the tournament, such as Brazil and France, when the draw is made in Marseilles on December 4. Two teams from each of the eight groups of four will qualify for the last 16 of the tournament, which is the beginning of the knock-out stages.

If, however, Fifa uses its world rankings to pick the top seeds, possibly in combination with results from previous World Cups, then England's chances of making the top eight would improve dramatically. Hoddle has lost only two of his 14 matches in charge — to Italy and Brazil — and that record has propelled England to seventh.

Argentina, who are tussling with Colombia to be England's next opponents on February 11 at Wembley, are ranked only thirteenth in that list, France are fourteenth, Italy sixteenth and Belgium 48th. It hardly seems fair that England should have qualified by coming top of a group that included Italy, only to be seeded below them.

Hoddle, of course, was circum-

spect when asked after England's 2-0 victory over Cameroon at Wembley on Saturday whether he thought the system needed revision. But he made it clear that it would be irrational if the governing body's own world rankings were ignored when the decision was made.

"If you are going to have world rankings," Hoddle said, "they have got to have some credence. The problem with using a country's past record is that, in all probability, that would have been achieved with a different management team, a different set of players. Perhaps that system needs to be re-shaped."

"With the amount of groups there are going to be, it would definitely be an advantage to be a seed. If not, you could end up with Brazil or Germany. But, if we did end up in with the Dutch, the Germans or whoever, let's face it, we have had to qualify with Italy in the group and not on a neutral ground, with a home and away situation."

Fifa has given some preliminary indications that changes in the system may be made. In some ways, footballing realpolitik might suggest seeding England because they are sure to be one of the tournament's highest-profile teams. In others, it might be deemed prudent to make life tough for them so the potential for bootlegging can be eradicated as soon as possible.

"Nothing has been decided yet," Keith Cooper, Fifa's director of communication, said recently. "For the last couple of World Cups, the seedings were based on performance in the previous three tournaments. However, there is a school of thought which says that as we've got the Fifa ranking system, we ought to use it. They were not used for the 1994 World Cup because they were too recent to be of any real value."

Ireland might have been able to do England a favour by beating Belgium in Saturday's play-off in Brussels, but even then Hoddle's side would still be lagging behind Bulgaria and Romania under the existing system. Even if Italy had been eliminated by Russia, the latter would have been ahead of England in the seeding queue.

Hoddle will not have a chance to lobby Fifa directly about changes to the system before the seedings decision is made. That will be done at a meeting of the World Cup committee two days before the draw. Then the arguing will be over, the die cast, the tournament ready to begin.



Casiraghi, top, celebrates his goal for Italy; Shay Given, above, is consoled after Ireland's defeat



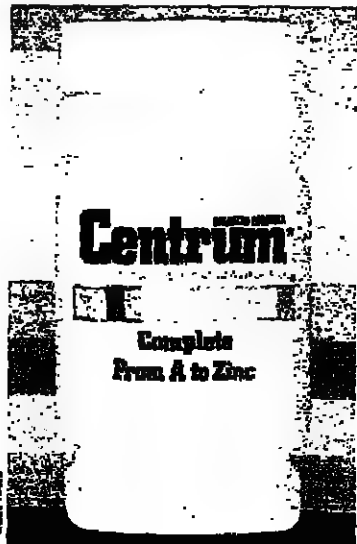
Japan, left, ecstatic at qualifying for the first time; Hoddle meanwhile is pondering England's seeding problem

FOOTBALL'S NEW WORLD ORDER	
EUROPE CUP WINNERS	AFRICA CUP WINNERS
1. Brazil	1. Small
2. Spain	2. France
3. Germany	3. Italy
4. Czech Republic	4. Germany
5. Romania	5. Argentina
6. Denmark	6. Holland
7. ENGLAND	7. Spain
8. Holland	8. Belgium
9. Russia	
10. Mexico	
11. Colombia	
12. Argentina	
13. France	
14. Italy	
15. Scotland	
16. Belgium	

England, Scotland, Romania, Bulgaria, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Tunisia, Morocco, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, Colombia, Paraguay, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Mexico, United States, Jamaica or El Salvador, Chile or Peru or Ecuador, Australia or Iran.

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Centrum contains 21 vitamins, minerals and other micro-nutrients, with more essential vitamins and minerals at 100% RDA. When a balanced diet isn't possible, there's no more complete multivitamin multimineral.

Lifeboats

Series ends with familiar tale of woe as Australia power their way to victory

Britain fall at final hurdle once more

Great Britain 20
Australia 37

By Christopher Irvine

NOT surprisingly, Australia never tire of the same old story in rugby league. Its well-thumbed pages ended in another predictable and sobering 2-1 series defeat for Great Britain. Amid a wretched sense of déjà vu at Elland Road yesterday, the home side lost a deciding match there for the third time in seven years.

After the recovery to level the series at Old Trafford last week, the mistakes that haunted Britain in the first match at Wembley returned with a vengeance. Everything that could go wrong for Britain did go wrong, starting with the try that they conceded after 45 seconds. That drained any confidence they might have had and six further tries by Australia stemmed from the comedy of errors.

No matter how hard they tried to ignore the weight of history, it pressed down relentlessly on the home side. In a seemingly endless pursuit, Britain appear condemned to second place. It has become a biennial ritual, since the last triumph in 1970, that Britain lose the Ashes — usually with a degree of credit — and are left to ponder the lessons — the main one being that, as long as rugby league inspires year-round enthusiasm in small pockets of the country, Britain might never have sufficient numbers to tackle Australia as equals.

Like a boxer rendered senseless by the first punch, Britain were left staggering from the opening try by Ken Nagas. Paul Atcheson's name was still being read out over the public address system when he was caught unawares by Daley's chip over the Britain defence. Nagas took full advantage of a friendly bounce and exposed the full back's glaring lack of pace to score a try that set the tone for the rest of the match.

A series brought to life by Britain's gutsy win the previous week was suddenly undermined.



Daley, the Australia captain, joins in the celebrations after another try in his side's victory over Great Britain yesterday

Australia never needed to touch the heights of which they are capable, as Britain's nervy defence committed blunder after blunder.

Although Britain outscored Australia after the break, a twelfth successive series victory had already been secured. All the bad memories of the world club championship were revived by the defensive ineptitude displayed in the first half. If the hapless Atcheson had not been helped off with a groin

injury, he would surely have been replaced, but not before he surrendered possession as he careered out of defence and presented Daley with a gift try.

This was a poor-packed performance by Australia. There was no repeat of the frills attempted without success at Old Trafford for they did not dare suffer the ignominy of becoming the first touring side since 1939 to return from Britain defeated. With Daley operating like

a puppet master, Smith superb at loose forward and Tallis demonic in his tackling, Britain were hampered into early submission.

Andy Farrell's performance was a grave disappointment by his standards. The Britain captain's nerves showed as much as the rest of his team-mates. There was no tactical kicking to speak of and, whereas the home performance needed to be several notches above the one at Old Trafford, it fell

woefully below par, as Australia raced to a 25-2 lead by half-time.

Wendell Sailor's muscular running and ruthless opportunism brought him two tries in eight minutes. From a scrum after an attempted interception by McDermott, Lockyer cleverly drew Sailor on his inside and Scullthorpe had the hopeless task of trying to stop him. The next try followed a hospital pass by Farrell to Morley, which Girdler swooped on from 70

metres out and Sailor confidently did the rest.

Daley's try and a barnstorming effort by Thorn, this time from a knock on by Haughton, were indicative of the panic in the Britain ranks. There was no let-up from Smith at the start of the second half as he split Forshaw and Joynt from acting half back. Smith learnt of his man-of-the-match award as he was in the sin bin after a fracas that at least spurred Britain into action.

A kind bounce from a steeping kick by Goulding provided Haughton, a substitute, with his first try. A smart passage of handling brought Australia's final try by Kearns before the consolation, such as it was, for Britain of Robinson providing the best individual moment with an electrifying try beneath the posts, and a second for the tireless Haughton.

Not that a 17-point margin in any way reflected Australia's sheer dominance. Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, who has a year to put things right before the World Cup in the southern hemisphere, said: "It again exposed the problems we have in producing quality players compared with the Australian production line."

The answer from John Lang, the Australia coach, is for the game in Britain to look seriously at its competition and cut out the deadwood, of which there is plenty. None of this, however, accounts for the errors that overwhelmed Britain's Ashes hopes once again.

SCORERS: Great Britain: Tries: Haughton (2), Robinson; Goals: Farrell (4); Australia: Tries: Sailor (2), Nagas, Daley, Thorn, Smith, Kearns; Goals: Girdler (4); Dropped goal: Lockyer. GREAT BRITAIN: P. Atcheson (St Helens), J. Robinson (Wigan), K. Radford (Wigan), P. Newlove (St Helens), A. Hurst (St Helens), A. Farrell (Wigan, captain), R. Goulding (St Helens), S. McDermott (Bradford), J. Lowe (Bradford), P. Broadbent (Sheff Wed), C. Joynt (St Helens), A. Morley (Leeds), P. Scullthorpe (Warrington), S. Subbotin (St Helens), S. Haughton (Wigan), S. McManis (Bradford), M. Forshaw (Bradford). AUSTRALIA: D. Lockyer (Bradford), K. Nagas (Canberra), A. Binglehurst (Cronulla), R. Girdler (Parramatta), W. Sailor (Bradford), L. Daley (Canberra, captain), C. Kearns (Parramatta), J. Gowers (Cronulla), S. Walters (North Queensland), B. Thorn (Brisbane), G. Tallis (Brisbane), S. Cyste (Canberra), D. Smith (Brisbane), S. Subbotin (St Helens), M. Robinson (Parramatta), M. Adkinson (Parramatta), S. Kinnear (Parramatta), P. Houston (New Zealand). Referee: P. Houston (New Zealand).

Tracing root cause of inferiority complex

Throughout the anthems and for some time into the decisive final match of the international series at Elland Road, a lone white balloon hovered in the breeze just above the centre circle. It was, by a distance, the longest anything in Great Britain's colours remained buoyant yesterday afternoon.

For it took just 43 seconds for the breath to be knocked out of the belief that Britain could beat Australia at rugby league on home ground in a series for the first time since 1959. In those devastating seconds, Paul Atcheson, garlanded for his debut at full back at Old Trafford eight days earlier, felt the noose around his neck as his error, his palpable inability to tackle Ken Nagas, allowed the Canberra Raider in for the first try.

Since this was to be a monumental British effort, one of the national team putting back reason to believe, to hope, to rebuild buoyancy in the northern rugby game, why blame a young sportsman in isolation?

Rob Hughes admires the versatility and maturity that yielded another series victory for Australia against Great Britain

Rugby league is a cruel and sometimes crude game. It is raw in its passion and power, and quite naked in seeking a villain of the piece. And yet, in the 28 minutes that Atcheson was to last, before being helped off with a groin injury, he typified the stumbling ineptitude, born no doubt of a fear of failure, that gave Australia all the impetus they could desire.

Atcheson, the St Helens full back, is not really a rookie; he is 24. Consider, then, that Craig Gower, the Australian, is but 19. He wears the green and gold with pride, he drank lustily from the cup in the dressing-room and, sporting a gold earring, he epitomises the versatility of the Australian players, and the privilege of a background that steeped youngsters in his game. "I started playing when I was five," he said. "There are more than a

dozen clubs in my area, and some of them run five sides for the under eights."

Perhaps that is why this Australian boy did not exhibit the nervous errors of Andy Farrell, the captain, Atcheson and the rest of the Britain team. Gower, a four-year contract with Penrith on the outer suburbs of Sydney already signed, lives at home with his mother, but owns two houses near Cronulla Beach.

So, possibly, the rewards and the very roots of rugby league in the two hemispheres must be considered before Britain — in particular Northern England — can rediscover a semblance of the omnipotence of the game it exported to Australia 90 years ago.

"I'm driven on by absolute determination to beat those bloody Aussies," Maurice Lindsay, the

chief executive of the Rugby Football League, said afterwards. He had managed three Great Britain teams in losing Test series. He had hoped, like his countrymen, that the heroic and surprise victory in Manchester denoted a turning of fortune.

And he probably knew better, probably envisaged before the third match began that John Lang, the former hooker now coaching the Australia side, would be saying in victory: "It's a terrific feeling, not just that we won, but that we blew them off the park. You get out and get stuck in, and it's amazing how the bounce goes your way. It's about handling under pressure at this level."

The bounce, how capriciously that first ball, booted downfield by Girdler, sat up invitingly for Nagas. He, playing only because

of injury to Brett Mullins, accepted the ball with alacrity. Still, Atcheson, 6ft 3in and more than 15 stone, should have nailed him, but mistimed his lunge, and the Australian was in, over and out.

By half-time it was a massacre, the Australians having run in five tries, without playing scintillating rugby, and leading 25-2. They had simply capitalised on errors that came from the men in white, and the great expectations of a capacity 39,357 crowd were stunned almost to silence.

True, the defiant spirit late on did rekindle some pride, but I wonder if the large numbers of so-called British supporters who booed the Australian national anthem will now reflect that this misbehaviour does nothing but get into the soul of a truly competitive opponent, building, if it were needed, their resolve to conquer.

The emphatic pace, the power, the quickness of hand and eye of the Australians looked as if it was fashioned in a different stratosphere, nevermind hemisphere.



Farrell made nervous errors as Great Britain captain

SQUASH

Parke beats the best as England retain world title

FROM COLIN MCQUEILAN IN KUALA LUMPUR

ENGLAND marshalled a resilient defence of the men's world team title here with a 3-0 win over Canada in the final over the weekend.

Simon Parke, the England No 1, who lost in the second round of the World Open to the British champion, Mark Cairns, easily beat the new world champion, Rodney Eyles, of Australia, in the semi-final and the most exciting newcomer to the PSA World Tour, Jonathon Power, of Canada, in the final to lead England to victory.

Eyles was grouchy, jaded and seemingly unable to adjust to the different scoring system.

Power, who earlier in the week had rather embarrassed Parke as part of Canada's qualifying win over England, suffered back spasms the night before and was still fragile when facing the mobile and shot-packed attack the 25-year-old Yorkshireman ranged against him to win 9-1, 9-0, 9-0 in just 22 minutes.

The mastery of Chris Walker, the 30-year-old London-based England captain, over Gary Waite in the following third string rubber was almost as complete. He won 9-1, 9-3, 9-4 in 35 minutes to leave 28-year-old Del Harris, of Colchester, to tidy up the second string dead rubber, just as he did in the semi-final against Australia, 5-1, 9-1, over Graham Ryding, who had beaten him nearly two weeks earlier in the World Open first round.

When England won the title for the first time in Cairo two years ago, Walker was on the bench for the final. "That has always rankled a bit," he said. "It felt much better knowing that the last ball Gary hit disappeared into the tin after I had run him ragged was actually giving us the title again."

This time Peter Marshall, of Nottingham, was on the bench, as he had been since managing only a rather one-paced defeat at the hands of Ryding in the qualifying match against Canada.

"Ours was a victory for strength in depth and good timing of our maximum effort for the knock-out stages," David Pearson, the England coach, said. "All three players benefited from short involvements in the World Open and a consequent strong desire to restore their reputations in the eyes of their peers from all over the world."

Wales finished twelfth, Scotland, lacking their World Open finalist, Peter Nicol, who refused to play on through the team event, finished fifteenth in an event they might even have won at full strength.

Results, page 43

BASKETBALL: HOME OFFICE STILL CONSIDERING CHANGE OF EMPLOYER FOR LEWIS

American cannot join frustrated Royals

By Nicholas Harling

PETTY bureaucracy at the Home Office is compounding the plight of Watford Royals at the foot of the Budweiser League. The Hertfordshire club, still without a win after their 93-76 home defeat by Crystal Palace on Saturday, have been unable to include Cleave Lewis, the 35-year-old American, in their squad even though he has been released by Worthing Bears.

Vince Macaulay-Razai, the

Royals owner, said: "The Home Office have issued him with a work permit, but he still can't play until they have approved his change of employer. We'd have been better off cancelling his original work permit, sending him out of the country and re-applying for a fresh one."

Palace, one place above them, had been regarded as beatable, but Watford were doomed to their fourteenth league defeat of the season long before the end. The

Royals' frustration was illustrated by the dismissal in the third quarter of Leon Noel for abusing Will Jones, the referee, after a foul on Junior Williams.

Worthing Bears have their troubles, too. Greg Fullerton's withdrawal as owner after buying the club last summer has left a promising squad in danger of being broken up. On Saturday, they lost 89-76 at home to London Towers. James Hamilton, a former Bear, collected 22 points for

the Towers, while Ryan Williams scored 28 for Worthing.

A league record was set at Bracknell, where four periods of overtime were required before Thames Valley Tigers beat Derby Storm 145-144 in the highest-scoring game of the season. Tony Holley's 49 points for the Tigers was also a best for the season but, as the scorer of 41 for the Storm, Ted Berry was the unluckiest loser of the weekend.

Results, page 43

SPEEDWAY: PETERBOROUGH PROMOTER CONCERNED BY BURGEONING GRAND PRIX

Oakes warning over expansion plans

By Tony Hoare

THE proposed expansion of the world championship grand prix poses a serious threat to British speedway, according to Peter Oakes, the Peterborough Panthers promoter, who is considering dropping the Elite League club into the Premier League.

Oakes has revealed that the Panthers will be unable to run on 12 of their regular Friday race nights in 1998. Five Fridays will be lost because

two Peterborough riders, Jason Crump and Ryan Sullivan, have qualified for the grand prix, with seven others ruled out through other commitments.

Oakes said: "The grand prix will affect more and more clubs, we are just the first to be hit."

There are plans for qualifying meetings for the grand prix, which would last a week, and talk of there being more grand prix. That is bound to affect British speedway — we

will end up being without our top riders for the entire week."

The Peterborough promotion suffered financially this season when his gamble on opening a sister track at Skegness failed, and the Panthers were forced to complete their fixtures at Ryde, on the Isle of Wight. Oakes is now pinning his hopes on finding sponsorship to cover the cost of staying in the Elite League.

"The financial situation does come into it," Oakes said, "but, in 1998, if we run Elite

League we would have a period from July 31 to September 25 with only one meeting on a Friday."

Oakes says that he will wait until British promoters stage their annual conference, in Llanazote next week, before announcing his final decision on the club's future. Should the Panthers drop into the Premier League, they would make Crump, whom they signed two years ago in a British record transfer deal of £35,000, available for loan.

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FOOTBALL: IRELAND LACK QUALITIES NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR THIRD SUCCESSIVE WORLD CUP FINALS

McCarthy fails to sustain dream

A valiant side dies with its boots on

FROM ENDA McEVY IN BRUSSELS



Belgium 2
Ireland 1
(Belgium win 3-2 on agg)

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN BRUSSELS

JACK CHARLTON, the former Ireland manager, descended the steps from his television commentary box. He paused a moment, scratched his forehead and stared across at the Ireland players applauding their still adoring supporters. He had seen it before but wanted one last look: then he was gone. It was all over.

Ireland's attempt to make a third successive appearance at the World Cup finals had failed. The rain lashed down in the King Baudouin Stadium, *We Are The Champions* boomed out over the public address system and the champagne flowed. Yet it was Belgium, not Charlton's beloved Ireland, that had qualified to play in France next year.

In the emotion of the moment, as Mick McCarthy, Charlton's successor, led his players towards the flag-waving mass of green, white and orange, it was tempting to wax lyrical about glorious failure. Had not Ireland, overwhelming underdogs in the second leg of this play-off, performed well?

Were not Belgium hanging on desperately in the closing stages, increasingly paranoid about conceding an equaliser that would have signalled their exit on away goals? And was it not only a suspiciously crafted winner that had decided the tie?

Yes, thrice over. Yet the truth was out there, somewhere, amid the hype and hysteria. Ireland under McCarthy, however honestly he has toiled and however much precocious talent is filtering



Nilis, the Belgium striker, slots home the goal that ended Ireland's hopes of securing a place in the World Cup finals in France next summer

through, are not ready for the main event.

Instead, during the coming months, Ireland will become no more than a warm-up act for the finalists. Once the bitter taste has left the palate, McCarthy might privately concede that France 1998 would have been a tournament too soon for a squad still in the throes of frustrating, often painful, transition. Charlton may no longer have an influence, but his shadow lingers large. Comparisons would have been rife next year and it is better to weep now rather than later.

Ireland had done it before in 1990, against Malta, and in 1994, against Northern Ireland — reaching the finals in their concluding qualifying matches. In Valletta and Bel-

fast, too: away from the comfort of home. They had drunk in the Last Chance Saloon and enjoyed it. Expectations were similarly high on Saturday, despite the residual gloom from the 1-1 first-leg draw.

Oliveira dampened the spirits in the 25th minute, running on to a pass from Claessens, skipping past Given and shepherding the ball into the empty net. Ireland had taken many blows during a roller-coaster 15-month campaign and, again, counterpunched with gusto. Townsend crossed deftly and Houghton, twisting in mid-air, headed over De Wilde.

Townsend reconsiders

ANDY TOWNSEND, the Ireland captain, is to reconsider his decision to retire from international football (Russell Kempson writes). Townsend, 34, made his announcement after the World Cup defeat in Belgium on Saturday night but Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has asked him to think again. "I've told him

that's what I'll do," Townsend said yesterday.

McCarthy has yet to agree to the offer of a two-year extension to his contract, but it is likely that he will sign in the next ten days. "We should have it sorted out in the very near future," Pat Quigley, the Football Association of Ireland president, said.

In the 68th minute, though, the dream died. Boffin took a throw-in (should it have been Ireland's?), Verheyen nodded on (with the aid of a push), Claessens flicked it through and the irrepressible Nilis (was he offside?) beat Given from close range.

"It was clearly our throw," McCarthy said. "It was when we were in control and has cost us a place in the World Cup finals." When he watches the video evidence, when the hurt has subsided, he may reassess his verdict.

No doubt, though, about Connelly's sending off, for shoving Verheyen and then kicking him when he was down. It was Ireland's third dismissal, alongside 21 bookings, in their 12 World Cup qualifying fixtures, a disciplinary excess that McCarthy must curb.

Belgium celebrated; Given was inconsolable. The stadium stewards gathered up the soggy tricolours and handed them back through the fencing. No dining at the top table this time.

IRELAND (4-4-2): F de Wilde (Sporting Lisbon); G Deleu (FC Brugge); Verheyen (Germinal Beerschot); G de Boeck (Anderlecht); G Veldhoen (Mouscron); sub: V Bostmans (FC Brugge); 60m — G Verheyen (FC Brugge); F van der Bilt (FC Brugge); G Claessens (FC Brugge); sub: P Liekeart (AS Mouscron); 70, G Nilis (Mouscron); L O'Brien (Flemish); L Nilis (PSV Eindhoven); sub: M Goossens (FC Sochaux 04, 89).

IRELAND (4-4-1-1): S Given (Newcastle United); J Kenna (Blackburn Rovers); K Cunningham (Wimbledon); J Harris (Leeds United); S Sheehan (Aston Villa); L Canally (Derby County); G Kelly (Leeds United); A McLoughlin (Preston North End); sub: R Houghton (Reading, 88); A Townsend (Blackburn); sub: D Kelly (Tranmere Rovers, 88); A Kennedy (Aberdeen, 88); D Connelly (Preston, 78); A Casaraghi (AS Nancy).

Referee: G Barla (France).

any excess that McCarthy must curb.

Belgium celebrated; Given was inconsolable. The stadium stewards gathered up the soggy tricolours and handed them back through the fencing. No dining at the top table this time.

The match, Charlton's first serious competitive fixture as manager, was a Euro '98 qualifier. In retrospect we ought to have known there could have been something strange was afoot. Ireland didn't get results away from home in those days. They certainly didn't get penalties.

When Nick Hornby observed that disappointment was the natural lot of your common or garden football fan, it was not the Ireland supporter of pre-Big Jack era he had in mind. But it should have been.

Inex referees, disallowed

ward, by now rapidly assuming the dimensions of Billy Bunter's postal order — eternally imminent but never actually materialising — was not back for another half a decade.

Would that Mick McCarthy had the likes of Stapleton, Brady and Lawrenson in their 1980s pomp available to him. Where he was forced to rely for his battering ram in attack on Tony Casaraghi — a player who, were he a horse, would be little more than a slow gallop away from the knacker's yard — his Belgian counterpart, George Leekens, could afford the luxury of doing without Gilles De Bilde. PSV Eindhoven's tormentor of Newcastle United, Unfair! Football always is, especially to small nations for whom success will invariably be cyclical.

Their day, if and when it comes, must be seized with both hands, for it doesn't come too often. Ask Northern Ireland.

THE Ireland supporters being soaked in the uncovered part of the city and stand at the Baudouin Stadium could have few complaints about the football.

The speed of Luc Nilis's response to Ray Houghton's equaliser was a clear indication of Belgium's ability to shift two gears upwards when required. Over the course of both legs, there could be no question as to which was the better side and no argument that the right team is going to France next summer. At least, and as always, Ireland died with their boots on.

It was apt that the former Heysel stadium, now trading as the King Baudouin stadium,

'Over two legs, there could be no question as to which was the better side'

was the venue; the Heysel carries a significance for Irish football, no less enduring, albeit far less ghastly, than it does for the citizens of Liverpool and Turin. For it was here, on a warm Wednesday night 11 years ago, that the Jack Charlton revolution began. Eleven years: can it really be that long since 800 travelling supporters — contrast that with the 9,000 of Saturday night — packed a silver of terracing one September evening and witnessed Liam Brady slide home a last-minute penalty to give the visitors an improbable 2-2 draw against the recent World Cup semi-finalists?

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Inex referees, disallowed

goals; thus Irish football fortunes used to be measured out. That Brady's penalty — which set the boys in green on the road to the finals of a major tournament for the first time and thereby helped lead to everything afterwards, notably Genoa and Rome in 1990 and Glants Stadium and Orlando in 1994 — was netted in Brussels was ironic.

Five years earlier perhaps the best Irish team ever had had a Frank Stapleton goal mysteriously ruled out from an offside seen only by the Portuguese referee, then succumbed to a last-minute sickener from Jan Ceulemans. Belgium went through to the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain in a ridiculously difficult group, which included Holland, runners-up in the previous two finals, Ireland was squeezed out on goal difference. The great leap forward, by now rapidly assuming the dimensions of Billy Bunter's postal order — eternally imminent but never actually materialising — was not back for another half a decade.

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Their day, if and when it comes, must be seized with both hands, for it doesn't come too often. Ask Northern Ireland.



Cesare Maldini salutes the Neapolitan crowd

Casiraghi sends Italy wild in the cauldron of Naples

Italy 1
Russia 0

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE IN NAPLES

ITALY, promised Cesare Maldini, their relieved and joyful manager, will not employ a blunderbuss attack in the World Cup finals in France as they did here against Russia on Saturday evening. Gigi Casiraghi and Fabrizio Ravanelli ultimately did the trick, but, as one might have expected, they duplicated rather than complemented one another.

"I had already decided on this for some time," Maldini said, savouring Italy's qualification for France next summer

after their 1-0 play-off win, 2-1 on aggregate. "In other games we shall play differently, but this time, we could not afford to make mistakes."

"I am sorry there was no room for Zola, he had been a very important player for us in the first part of the qualifying group. Obviously, I am a lucky international manager. Wherever I put my hands, I fish successfully."

The Italy coach and his players paid warm tribute to the support from the Neapolitan crowd, though to a neutral, their one-sided behaviour was displeasing. All well and good to cheer their own team to the echo as the 69,000 did, but to whistle Russia loud and long whenever they were in possession was another story.

Overall, Italy deserved to win, grinding out the result on the heavy pitch. The curiosity of the game was the ease with which they scored their winning goal. The through pass by Demitrio Albertini was precise and decisive; better, he said, than the one with which he set up Christian Vieri's goal during the 1-1 draw in the first leg in Moscow.

Russia had defended well until then, apart from one fearful moment when only a gallant save by Ovtchinnikov thwarted Ravanelli after a mistake by Onopko. For once, though, the packed Russia defence was caught square, enabling Casiraghi, recalled after recent absence, to run on and score coolly and precisely. Boris Ignatiev, the Russia



manager, was deeply disappointed. "When things go badly in Russia," he said, "it breaks the revolution. Our aim was to block the wings, where most of the danger came for us in Moscow. And we succeeded."

"This time, the attack didn't function. Only Kolyanov, up to a point, followed instructions. I like Casiraghi, he scored a very important goal." Indeed he did. The only moment when Russia threatened to do the same was in the first half, when Khoklov found Yuran after a fine run down the right. But the player who did so little at Millwall and has redeemed himself since could not beat Peruzzi.

Albertini caused Ovtchinnikov most danger, particularly with an inswinging corner from the left that he only just managed to push away, and a long free kick from the right to which Ciro Ferrara got in a powerful header.

Ignatiev pointed out that Russia had blocked Italy on the wings and, indeed, Paolo Maldini and Pessotto rarely threatened. Maldini said that he could not understand the criticisms made of Cesare, his father, before the match. "However, in football, it's the result that matters. We have beaten Russia and now we are going to France," he said.

"The rest is gossip. This is a team that deserves respect and the managerial staff is totally of value. I'll tell you something else: there is an ideal rapport between players and managers. Just look at what happens in other international teams. They quarrel from morning until night."

Well though Albertini played, and although Di Matteo had his first-half moments, there is still no player

in the Italy midfield in the tradition of Gianni Rivera, one who, with his flair and intuition, can really keep the team on the move. With Zola or Del Piero up front, such a deficiency might be partly overcome.

But the double centre forward plan, if it continues to involve big men, is unlikely to bear much fruit in France, where Italy can hardly make the Neapolitan crowd with them.

ITALY (4-3-3): A Peruzzi — A Costacurta; F Casaraghi, C Ferrara — G Pessotto (sub: A Nesta, 77); D Albertini, R G. Maldini, D Baggio, P Maldini — F Ravanelli (sub: A Del Piero, 77); P Casiraghi.

RUSSIA (4-3-3): S Ovtchinnikov — J Naidov — V Onopko, J Kovun — J Radnikov (sub: S Bernat, 88); I Janovits (sub: I Smirnov, 88); D Alekseyev, O Koldov, D Popov — S Yuran (sub: V Barchevsky, 78); I Kolyanov.

Referee: S Mutenmacher (Switzerland).

Japan storm into World Cup finals

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MASAYUKI OKANO scored a minute from the end of sudden-death extra-time to give Japan a 3-2 win over Iran yesterday, and send his team through to their first World Cup finals. The result of the Asian play-off in Malaysia consigned Iran to another play-off over two legs against Australia, the Oceania group winners, on November 22 and 29, for the last place at next year's finals in France.

Okano, who came on as a substitute, scored the golden goal in the 119th minute after the score was locked at 2-2 at full time. Japan, who are co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals, went ahead after 39 minutes with a low drive from Masashi Nakayama. However, Iran scored two goals in 13 minutes after the break, from Khodadad Azizi and Ali Daei, before Japan equalised through Shoji Jo in the 75th minute.

Croatia held Ukraine to a 1-1 draw on Saturday night to qualify for the finals for the first time. Ukraine, who lost 2-0 in the first leg in Zagreb, dominated proceedings but never looked likely to score the three goals that they needed. Andriy Shevchenko briefly raised the hopes of

85,000 in the Olympic Stadium with a fourth-minute goal, before the visitors levelled the score after 27 minutes, when Alen Boksic's shot took a deflection and wrong-footed Olexander Shovkovsky, the Ukraine goalkeeper.

"We have reason to be elated," Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, said after the triumph. "We fought like knights and we are on our way to where we belong, where we will prove that we are a football nation."

Yugoslavia qualified for the finals, after an absence of eight years, by beating Hungary 5-0 in their second leg play-off, giving them a 12-1 aggregate triumph. Yugoslavia reached the quarter-finals in Italy in 1990, where they lost to Argentina on penalties. They were banned from competing four years ago because of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Savo Milosevic, the Aston Villa striker, scored their first goal in the seventeenth minute, paving the way for Predrag Mijatovic, of Real Madrid, who claimed a hat-trick in the first leg to complete the rout in front of a vociferous 60,000 crowd with the next four goals.

Jess offers reminder of the striker that time forgot

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

PLAYERS whose subtle gifts can baffle opponents are most at risk of becoming a mystery to themselves. In the 1-1 draw with Rangers at Pittodrie on Saturday, Eoin Jess gave Aberdeen the lead by showing refined control and movement to open up the space for a smooth drive that dipped into the top corner of the net. That episode marked the abrupt re-emergence of a talent that has been in hiding.

Despite a smattering of goals in cup competitions, Jess had not scored in league football since hitting the winner for Coventry City against Queens Park Rangers on April 13 last year. He has gradually become known as an attacking midfielder player more than a forward, but it is ludicrous that 19 months should pass without Jess finding the net to assist the Highfield Road club or Aberdeen in the gathering of points.

The consequences for an admired player have been severe. He moved to Coventry for almost £2 million in February 1996 and returned to Pittodrie for a third of that value in the summer. There are other, more personal, ways in which depression is registered and Jess was not included in the party of 26

potential that has yet to be realised and club and country must hope merely that he settles into reasonable form.

Whatever his hopes of taking part in the 1998 World Cup, Jess ought to be capable of piloting Aberdeen to respectability. That journey will have its troubles. His side might have been entombed beneath a landslide of goals by half-time on Saturday and, before the interval, it was awkward to decide who had been the more impressive occupant of the Aberdeen post.

Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper, did make a greater number of saves, but one had to be impressed by Joe Miller, the winger, who twice blocked attempts by Rangers on the line. The visitors eventually scored, through Jorg Albertin, in the fifth minute, but Aberdeen had attained some confidence by then.

While Heart of Midlothian have extended their lead at the top of the table to three points, Aberdeen are in bottom place, because Motherwell recorded an unexpected 2-0 win against Celtic. Nonetheless, there was sufficient merit in Aberdeen's display to whet the appetite of candidates for the vacant manager's job at Pittodrie.

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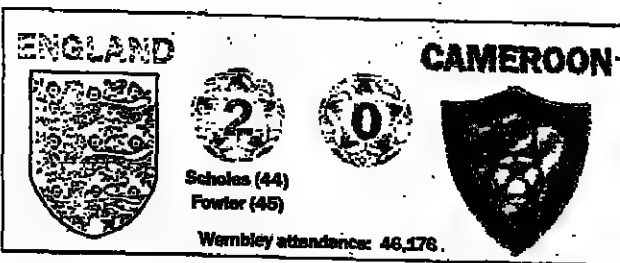
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Ferdinand's emergence prompts dilemma after England's victory over Cameroon

Hoddle contemplates sweeping changes



By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS more than an hour after the end of the game when Glenn Hoddle strode into the Red Bar at Wembley and took his seat. Behind him were two televisions, each showing action from a different match. One beamed out the dying minutes of Italy's victory over Russia, the other played highlights of Barner's rather more prosaic FA Cup defeat against Watford. They formed a neat backdrop to the England coach: a symbol of a man in two minds.

Much of what Hoddle had to say after England's languid but assured victory over Cameroon on Saturday was positive and decisive. He praised Paul Scholes to the skies after a performance of sustained excellence and a goal of sheer brilliance. "He can be the jewel in the crown," Hoddle said. There were words of encouragement, too, for Robbie Fowler, who responded to the suggestions that this was his last chance to prove himself worthy of being Alan Shearer's understudy by scoring with a clinical header. He, it was clear, had advanced his chances of making Hoddle's squad for the World Cup finals next summer.

But there was a cloudier side to what Hoddle had to say, too. Usually the most decisive of coaches, he admitted that he was clearly impaled on the horns of a dilemma that goes to the very heart of England's prospects of success in France. Caution sits on one shoulder, his instincts and his footballing philosophy perch on the other.

This, moreover, is a choice that goes beyond the theory question of which 22 he should select. It concerns the formation of the team, a radical change from the pragmatism that Hoddle has followed so far. His dilemma is whether to build his defence around a young sweeper of soaring potential, Rio Ferdinand.

Ferdinand, 19, has only just broken into the West Ham United team, but such has been the maturity of his performances that he has quickly progressed to the full England squad. On Saturday, he stepped off the bench to make his debut seven minutes before half-time, after Gareth Southgate was carried off on a stretcher with an ankle injury.

In defence, he did not put a foot wrong against a side of limited attacking ability. More significant, Ferdinand added an offensive weapon to England's armoury that has been sorely lacking. One elegant surge out of defence in the 66th minute that created a clear shooting chance for Fowler was like a revelatory flash of inspiration.

Hoddle has made no secret of the fact that he would love to play with a sweeper, but until now he has discounted it because of lack of personnel and lack of time. Now, Ferdinand has emerged and Hoddle has to decide whether to persevere with him.

"We have had a hell of a good defensive record with the clean sheets that we have got and the players we have used," Hoddle said. "It is a delicate one for me to try to sort out and get the balance right. A lot depends on who from midfield can step into defence if the sweeper presses forward. Paul line can do that."

"What I have got to decide is if that is really going to make



Scholes, who capped an outstanding display with a superbly-taken goal, evades Ipinu's challenge at Wembley. Photograph: Marc Aspland

us a threat to go on and win the World Cup. If that is what I really feel could be the added extra, then it would obviously be worth looking at.

"I like that system anyway. If the player or the system is not quite ready then I would be a fool to try to force the issue. If you do not have someone to fill in, you could get caught with your pants down and concede goals.

"The sweeper can be an attacking option. Ronald Koeman... stepped in there and he could hurt you by hitting a 60-yard pass that could nullify eight or nine players. No disrespect, but I do not think Rio is going to be able to do that. Ruud Gullit could do that. Ruud Krol did that. There are only isolated players who can achieve that."

"Whether I give Rio another chance depends on all sorts of things. I am not sure whether there is enough time and whether we have got enough games. My main concern is that I do not take my eye off

the fact that we have to do well in the World Cup."

Against Cameroon, no longer the foremost power in African football even though they have qualified for France, the greens for World Cup success were promising, at least. Playing with a semi-experimental team, England always looked the more dominant, creative force. Ince was outstanding in his holding role in front of the back four and Gascoigne linked well with Scholes and McManaman in midfield. In defence, Hinchcliffe looked a useful addition to the back three and Campbell was as solid as ever.

Scholes, though, was indeed the jewel that sparkled. His goal two minutes before half-time came after Gascoigne had caused panic in the Cameroon defence with a jinking run past four opponents. Foe and Kalla tackled each other trying to clear the danger and, when the ball ran on to the diminutive Manchester United midfielder player, he dinked

it over Ogonndzi with a stub of his right foot and it arched into the air, falling just under the crossbar.

With the half deep in injury time, Fowler ended the match as a contest. Ince played the ball out wide to Beckham and when he sent in an inviting, curling cross, Ince left for his Liverpool team-mate, who dispatched it unerringly.

The England attack, once so problematic in its selection for France, is beginning to pick itself. Now the agonising is turning to defence.

ENGLAND (3-5-1-1): N Martin (Leeds United) — S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), G Southgate (Aston Villa), sub: R Ferdinand, West Ham United, 38mins, A Hinchcliffe (Everton) — G Beckham (Manchester United), P Gascoigne (Preston), sub: R Lee, Newcastle United, 72, P Ince (Liverpool), S McManaman (Liverpool), P Neville (Manchester United) — F Scholes (Manchester United), sub: C Sutton, Blackburn Rovers, 70 — R Fowler (Liverpool).



Pair of aces: England's goalscorers against Cameroon, Fowler and Scholes, set off for the dressing-rooms

Brolin may return to England to play for Palace

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOMAS BROLIN could be returning to English football with Crystal Palace. Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, has invited the former Leeds United striker to a trial at Selhurst Park.

A Palace official said: "Steve Coppell has invited Brolin over for a week. He wants to see what the player's attitude is like and a permanent deal is not out of the question."

"Palace have gone to Sweden to play a friendly while there is a break in the Premiership programme this weekend, and Steve is hoping to finalise the offer of a trial while he is out there."

Brolin, who had an unhappy two-year spell at Elland Road after his £4.2million move from Italian club Parma, is now playing for Stockholm club Hammarby, newly promoted to the Swedish first division.

Leeds saved £420,000 in wages by freeing Brolin from his contract before it expired next June. They decided to cut their losses in order to avoid a Football Association inquiry into the string of fines imposed on the former Swedish international for various misdemeanours. Brolin, 27, scored just four goals in 27 appearances for the Yorkshire club.

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, is reportedly prepared to sell his stake in the club for £60 million. Johnson, who bought Everton in 1994, is said to have become disillusioned with his apparent unwillingness to give Howard Kendall, the manager, money to bring in new players.

The former Tranmere Rovers chairman's attempt to move the club away from Goodison Park — their home since 1892 — have also been upset a significant number of supporters.

The Football Association is expected to announce before the end of the year which company has won the contract to supply England's kit into the next century. Claims that Nike, an American company, has offered a £150 million ten-year deal have been dismissed as "premature" by an FA spokesman.

Umbro holds the contract, which runs out in June 1999, and is fighting to maintain its interest.

An FA spokesman said: "Nike and Umbro are just two of several companies who have tendered for the contract. As yet the FA have not made a decision. It could be weeks or a couple of months, but it would be expected probably around the turn of the year."

Cameroon no longer fly flag for Africa

When Cameroon ushered Solomon Olombe, 16, years and 342 days, from the bench into the match against England on Saturday, they granted him 17 minutes of spurious fame as the youngest player to take the field in a full international at Wembley. They also signalled, palpably, that Cameroon is not the nation to fulfil the prophecy of Walter Winterbottom, the first England manager, that Africa will produce a World Cup winner by the end of the millennium.

Rather, this Cameroon was displaying a search for a gimmick, something to distract the reality that their own talent pool is nothing comparable with the 1990 team that defeated Argentina in the opening game of the World Cup in Italy, and thrilled us all to the prospect of Africa's potential.

Be not deceived, however. There is a team of mature African players, Nigeria, that could, indeed, be a semi-finalist in France next summer. Already the Olympic champions, a feat that required removing almost full-strength teams from Argentina and Brazil from the tournament, Nigeria's problem is organisational and political.

There are Commonwealth heads of government who wish to see Nigeria, with its exemplary talents such as Nwanku Kanu, removed from the World Cup before a ball is kicked because of the misdemeanours of General Sani Abacha's military Government. Cameroon, meanwhile, are a country lost between looking backwards and trying to escalate time forwards.

It is not just that they lack the presence of Roger Milla, the captivating forward who so audaciously sparked that defeat of Argentina in 1990. On Saturday, they had no one remotely as powerful and as composed as Emmanuel Kande, the defender who had thighs like Mike Tyson, no one of such lightning midfield periplexity as Louis M'fiede, and no big centre forward, such as Cyrille Makanaky.

Instead, though little of body and

sometimes esoteric, they did at times embarrass England with their rhythmic short passing; alas, it lacked the explosive elements, the surprise, and when England's first goal was conjured by Paul Gascoigne, lacked even a semblance of correct tackling. Indeed, when the two tall Cameroon defenders collided in both going for the same ball and Paul Scholes, indubitably England's best performer, nipped through to flick the ball over the goalkeeper, the know-how that England possess, but Cameroon have lost, was unmistakable.

"We need to do the right things, or we risk losing the character, the spontaneity of our game," Makanaky had predicted of Cameroon seven years ago. "I've seen what happens in France. There are soccer schools everywhere, but all the youngsters end up like peas in a pod: they are all taught the same."

Makanaky, like many of his generation, had acquired the skills that were the pearls of his continent at

ROB HUGHES



At Wembley

home, unfettered by European notions of team order. We saw it in the cheek with which Milla and others could embellish the game at the highest level. They had, then, a blue-

eyed, blond, French coach, Claude Leroy, who knew how to encourage African instinct, to implant just as much order as he felt they could embrace, to meld the two without harming the end product. Leroy is now general manager at Paris Saint-Germain and one wonders if Jean Manga Onguene, the present coach of Cameroon, should not call on his services to recreate, if possible, the blend of 1990.

Even if he were persuaded, the raw material is not apparent. This, I suspect, was also foreseen. Yidnekatchew Tessema, the Ethiopian who was the first president of the African Football Confederation in 1957, had warned: "African football must make its choice. Either we keep our footballers in Africa, so that we teach them to reach the highest peaks in world competitions and restore dignity to the African people, or we let our best elements go, remaining the eternal suppliers to favoured countries abroad."

The boy Olombe looked neither embarrassed for skill and movement, nor particularly special when, on Saturday, he became a replacement for Jean-Jacques Etame, who had been Cameroon's one outstanding passer of the ball. They both play for French clubs, Etame for Bastia, Olombe for Nantes, but the difference is that Olombe has not had time to enjoy an African youth. He was plucked away in adolescence, as countless young Africans have been, particularly by French, Belgian and Italian clubs, through the past decade.

Little good does it seem to do the boys, their paymasters, their countries, or anyone but the merchants who coin off their fees as licensed FIFA agents. They are procurers of embryonic talent and they ruin the growth at a stroke.

England, thank goodness, has a more mature ideal. We saw it in the 66th minute on Saturday when Rio Ferdinand, schooled at West Ham United and already aware of the error of his ways when it comes to drink-driving, at least has roots that offer him the chance to grow into something quite special on our playing fields. Ferdinand, on as a substitute, elegantly patrolled Wembley with his tall and measured stride.

He did what Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has been seeking from a defender: he came from the back, converting defence into attack simply by following his instinct, by using the vision that Franz Beckenbauer showed 25 years ago. When Ferdinand advanced three quarters of the field, Robbie Fowler squandered the opening; but remember that 66th minute, for it points to a brighter tomorrow for England.

Africa, if Nigeria can hold together their potential and be allowed to deliver, remains, eternally, the continent of tomorrow. England, if it nurses the opening that Saturday provided for Ferdinand, can begin to aspire to reclaim its yesterday.



Cameroon lack players with the captivating skill of Milla, right, who inspired his country in Italia 90

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

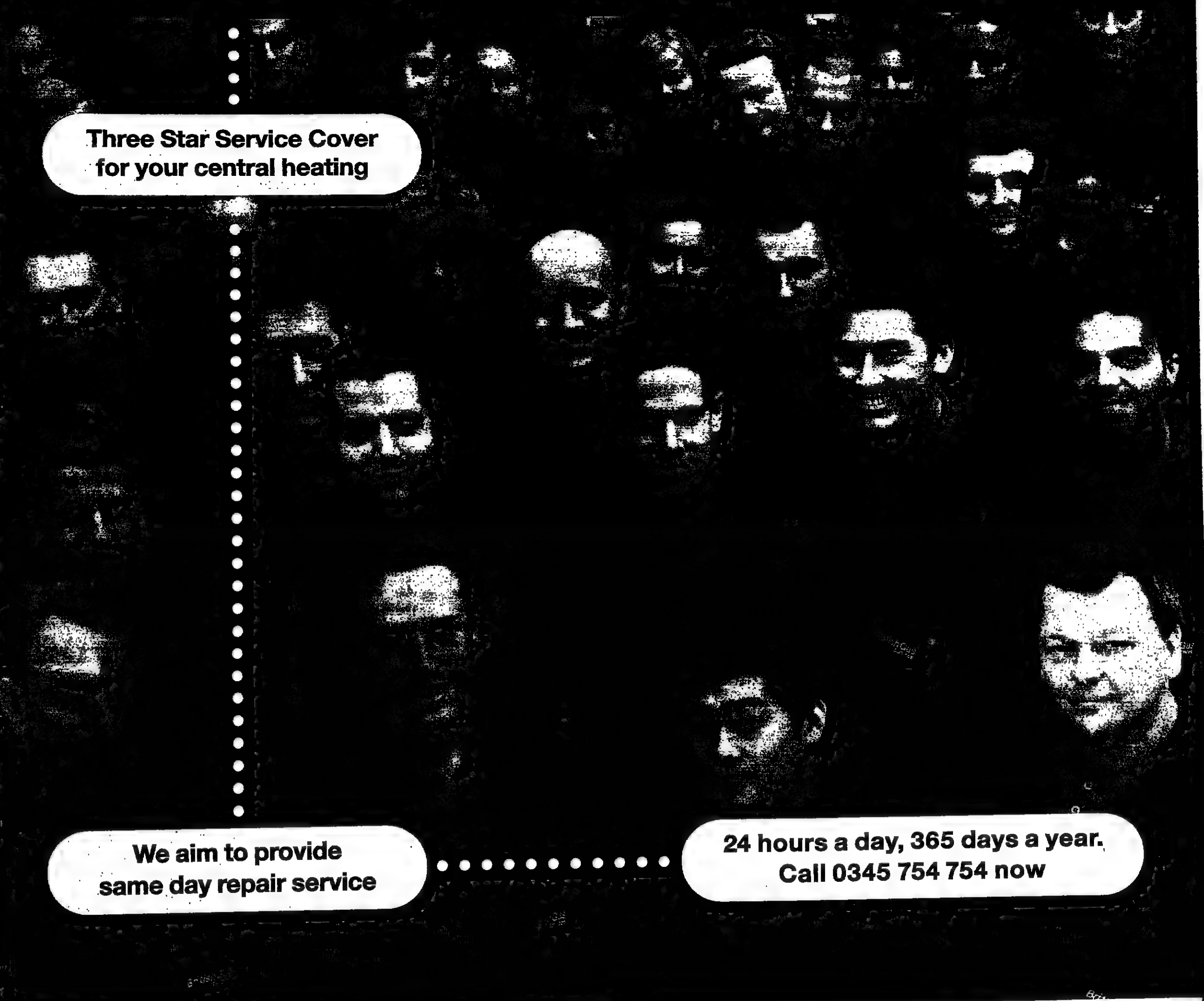
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FROM MARK SOLUSTER IN DUBLIN

SCORING RESULTS: Melrose: Titles: Dalglish 2 (39min, 60); Conversion: Chalmers. Penalty goals: Shepherd (13), Chalmers 2 (26, 28). Broughmuir: Penalty goals: Reddie (2).

SCORING RESULTS (Melrose last): 0-8, 1-5, 3-3, 1-3 (last time), 18-1, 21-3.

MELROSE: R. Shepherd (top A Purves, 22min); C. Dalglish, S. Nichol (top A Clark, 7); D. Bain, M. Monroist; C. Chalmers, B. Brownie, S. Brothertonie, I. Brown, J. Brown, R. Brown, S. Aitken, C. Redpath, D. Watt, C. Hogg.

BROUGHMUIR: C. Aitken; J. Williams, D. Wright, L. Graham, D. MacPhee; B. Reddie. A. Millie; R. McIsaac, K. Aiken, A. Perrett, D. Brown, S. G. MacPhee, A. Cadzow, S. Wanda. R. Brown, R. Brown, 49, S. Reid.

REPORT: R. Brown, 49, S. Reid.

REPORT: C. M. R. (Glasgow).

Emergence of Perry lights up an otherwise drab and dreary display at expectant Twickenham

England's spirit of adventure fails to impress



By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SPORT is a process of constant renewal, springtime in autumn, which engenders irrational outbursts of optimism. The disappointment surrounding England's draw with Australia at Twickenham on Saturday was, therefore, the more tangible so clearly it was shared by players, support staff and spectators who, at one stage, were moved to slow-handicap competitors involved in a seemingly endless sequence of errors.

Should we have looked for more? In an individual sense, yes, because these are players practising their art professionally and wet conditions have never been accepted as an excuse by the better teams. But, in the context of a young England team that had never played together before, five of whom were new to international rugby, and an Australia team whose confidence has been badly impaired, a draw was a fair result.

Considering that Australia, with nearly 300 caps compared with England's 170, carried by far the greater experience and should have benefited from work done together on tour in Argentina, England could derive satisfaction from competing so well.

Australians will point to their team's two tries and the threat posed by Horan, Tane or Larkham whenever they had the ball, but the fact remains that England seldom ceased searching for the attacking option and Catt's penalty count was the result.

Execution of team skills,

however, was sadly awry. If quality of performance was Clive Woodward's yardstick in this first meeting of four in quick succession against the three southern-hemisphere powers, then England have far to go; the new coach will, though, derive some satisfaction from the pervasive attitude of attack (not all of it well-judged) that is not something of which many England teams of the past have been accused.

On an individual level, he will look at Matt Perry, to a lesser extent Will Greenwood, and the returning Garath Archer and be happy with his selection. Perry's certainty was a revelation, the possibilities endless as to what he may achieve from full back.

One cameo bore particular testimony to his high quality: his recognition that Rees, isolated and under pressure, needed help followed by his driving into the ruck like a veteran flank forward to help to save the day. Two try-saving tackles in the first half alone went with his ability to move either way, which is where the injured Tim Stampson has specific drawbacks.

Not all of Perry's game shone like gold, but, because he is a mature young man, he will recognise the flaws: two misjudged attempts to keep the ball infield, the second a sliced, crossfield clearance.

Perry was well aware that England's offensive policy had been trampled by the wet weather, but given that, they

still sought to keep the ball infield, rather than giving Eales the chance to dominate at the lineout; Perry, Bracken and Catt deliberately used the kick as an attacking weapon but all too seldom did England pursue in sufficient numbers.

The irony was that, on the day, the lineout was a lottery. Both sides turned over possession; Archer was allowed to bump his opponents around and Foley's throwing was particularly wayward.

If England emerged with credit from that phase, though, their scrum creaked alarmingly; Long, whose time will come again, was replaced by Cockerill at the interval, which made the throwing more secure and tightened the set scrums but Green, confronted by the abrasive Harry, found international rugby a demanding arena and the referee constantly demanded that he packed straight rather than at an angle.

Difficulties there precluded the back row from achieving as much as they would have wished. Digrose played as well as a No 8 in defensive mode could have done, but it was as well that the back row

tackling was so secure because the tackle count of their front-five colleagues was less impressive. Nor, on either flank, were Adebayo and Rees able to judge the flight of kicks as well as they might have.

England's best period was the opening quarter, even though Catt's first penalty was their only reward. You can argue forever whether Australia might have achieved a match-winning advantage had Eales been more secure with his goal-kicking; he missed two penalties and conversion in the first half and a third penalty later.

His failure led to the decision to kick for touch rather than at goal before Roff stepped in to the breach. Catt, it should be remembered, lost his accuracy in the second half and four penalty chances went begging.

His first three successes gave England their 9-5 interval lead, Australia's try the result of a good counter when Perry's kick went into midfield

and delightful work between Horan and Gregan. If Australia were to take the match, it should have been midway through the second half, when Tane took Horan's slipped reverse pass close to a ruck and ran through to the line.

That was a critical moment for England and they responded with their best period of sustained play, Bracken working the blind side and Adebayo smashing off his wing to within two metres of the line before Larkham brought him down.

But that was a rare glint of what might have been. So frequently was the ball turned over by players who have yet to learn that patience is a virtue that neither side could achieve the continuity that they so desperately needed.

Catt at last retained his composure. Two minutes into injury time, and with England trailing 15-12, he opened up the midfield, chipped Larkham and was body-checked by the Australia full back, who

received a yellow card. Catt picked himself up and kicked the 36-metre penalty goal that levelled the match; that he failed to win it from 54 metres even deeper into injury time was no surprise, while Australia's 60-metre breakout, which gave Roff a penalty chance from 48 metres, was a poignant reminder of better days.

SCORERS: England: Penalty goals: Catt (36m, 32, 40, 50, 52). Australia: Tane (37m, 37m, 37m, 37m). Conversion: Roff (37m, 37m, 37m, 37m). Try: Roff (37m, 37m, 37m, 37m).

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Capt), D L Rees (Capt), W J H Greenwood (Capt), P R de Glanville (Capt), J J Grayson (Capt), A A Adebayo (Capt), A E Long (Capt), R L L Perry (Capt), M O Gwynne (Capt), G S Archer (Capt), L B N Dallaglio (Capt), R A Hill (Capt), A J Farnham (Capt).

AUSTRALIA: S Larkham (Capt), B M Tane (Capt), T J Horan (Capt), W Horner (Capt), J W Roff (Capt), E Pacey (Capt), G M Gregan (Capt), R L L Perry (Capt), M O Gwynne (Capt), A J Farnham (Capt), G S Archer (Capt), L B N Dallaglio (Capt), R A Hill (Capt), A J Farnham (Capt).

Referee: A Watson (South Africa)



Perry shows the determination that made the full back stand out in an otherwise lacklustre England performance. Photograph: Marc Aspland

New boys face ultimate test

By DAVID HANDS

"I DON'T think the All Blacks will be losing any sleep over our performance," Clive Woodward said ruefully, but at least the England coach now has a yardstick for performance. His brave new world seems a long way away, and may seem even further after the meeting with New Zealand at Old Trafford on Saturday, but Woodward never claimed to be a miracle-worker.

He has another tier of players available, with far more international experience than most of those who played at Twickenham last Saturday. Many will appear in the emerging players' XV (to be announced this morning) which meet the All Blacks at Huddersfield tomorrow evening, after which Woodward will decide on his team to play at Old Trafford. He has already promised, how-

ever, that conservative thinking will play no part in his approach.

There is little prospect of Alex King reclaiming the place at fly half from which he was forced to withdraw last week. Woodward wants him to play a match before being exposed to an international, and tomorrow may be too early. Adebayo Adebayo is expected to recover by Saturday from a scratched eyeball, but England need huge improvement in the set pieces to have any prospect against the best team in the world.

"We have to improve our right just to compete," John Mitchell, the assistant coach, said. "We have to learn to attack. We have to react quicker, be more urgent on the ball. We are going to experience very tight defences, so we

have to make progress through the hard yards."

England's tight five could not impose itself on an Australian pack fresh from the demands made on them by Argentina, whose scrumming power is legendary. "We have to change the mind-set at scrums, but it's not going to happen overnight," Mitchell said, acknowledging the use of the scrum as an attacking weapon. "The easy solution is to play more experienced players, but if we are to progress, we must have increased depth and the players on Saturday will have learnt a lot."

Australia face Scotland on Saturday, hoping that Joe Roff can extend his future as a goalkicker. "I would be very pleased to hand the kicking on, as soon as someone wants to do it," John Eales, their personable captain, said.

Dallaglio seeks perfect balance

Michael Calvin reports on how the new England captain prepared his fledgeling side

The England dressing-room was consumed by the conflicting forces of strident self-belief and suppressed self-doubt. Some players felt the need to bellow; others silently scanned the walls with nervous, darting eyes. It was time for Lawrence Dallaglio to think on his feet.

He had no pre-planned speech for the callow team clustered around him; no theatrical call to arms to rectify the occasion. His priority, in the final seconds before the referee's knock on the door on Saturday, was to maintain the eternal balance between emotion and logic, aggression and reason.

"Remember the top four inches," he said, tapping his head and referring to the intelligence required to play international rugby. Discipline is essential, commitment is absolute, responsibility is collective. "You deserve to be here," he said, countering the inevitable insecurities of five new caps. "Look each other in the eye. You know you are with the best guys you could be."

All too soon they were gone, sprinting out of the tunnel towards the light and sound of Twickenham. Most, instinctively, looked up to the West Stand in an attempt to recognise their relatives. Dallaglio thought, for an acutely personal instant, of his parents, Vincenzo and Eileen, and of how far they had travelled together.

They introduced him to mini-rugby at Staines, braved the muddy, wind-whipped touchlines of Ampleforth College and eased him through the initiation rituals of second XV rugby at Wasps. Now they looked down from the concrete shrine to professionalism on a son who was captaining his country for the first time.

"I'm not the sort to wallow in it all, to tell myself how well I've done but, when you run out there, every time feels like the first time," Dallaglio reflected. He felt a fleeting surge of pride but, deep down, held himself back because of the hidden limitations of the job.

As a powerful yet philosophical man, who possesses a quiet dignity, he finds himself cast as a role model for a new generation. For the foreseeable future, his every utterance, each instinct and action, will be scrutinised. Important-

ly, he understands that a captain cannot operate in isolation, however exalted his media profile.

Dallaglio is the antithesis of Will Carling, whose captaincy of England illustrated the power of the cult of personality. They both began against Australia — Carling with a 28-19 victory nine years earlier — and both represented revolution, rather than evolution. But there the similarities end. Power is devolved in the new England. Dallaglio does not dominate, nor does he spout the psychobabble of the man-management industry.

"Everyone has the right to say what they feel because, out there, on the pitch, there are no hiding places," he said. "The best players find the right equilibrium. They balance that physical edge with mental discipline. It's my

job to create an atmosphere that people can feed off."

Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, is encouraged to mirror Dallaglio's raw passion in the privacy of the dressing-room. Jason Leonard's understated authority naturally drew Andy Long and Will Green, newcomers in the front row, towards him. Phil de Glanville and Mike Catt played a similar shepherd's role with Will Greenwood, David Rees and Matt Perry, the new backs.

The new guys have learnt that international rugby is a totally different experience," Dallaglio said yesterday, after distilling the flaws of a typically anticlimactic draw against Australia. "It is not just an 80-minute exercise — it spans the whole week, from Monday night until Sunday

morning. The atmosphere is unique and the distractions are very different. The most important lesson, in playing terms, is that the international game is faster, harder than anything you have previously experienced. The hits carry more force. There is less time on the ball. You need the patience to wait for the right opportunity and the ability to make the most of it when it comes. "As a newcomer, you have to listen to all those around you, take on board what they say and then make your own decisions. It is up to you to digest what you feel is important, and discard what you feel you can do without. The challenge is to sustain the quality of your performance."

It takes up to 72 hours for the body to absorb the punishment of an international. A vivid red weal, some four inches long, beside Dallaglio's right eye is his souvenir of his introduction to the England captaincy. Though the inquest will not begin until later this week, his thoughts are beginning to crystallise.

"We're obviously aware of the things we need to improve," he said. "This is not a one-game thing. It is going to evolve and there is a lot more to come from this group. We stood off Australia a bit, paid them a bit of respect, but the self-belief is there because we didn't buckle. It is a question of allying desire and attitude, of maximising the potential of individuals."

"If we want to learn what a good team is, we have only to look at a Formula One pitstop. Everyone has a specific role to play, whether they are wiping the driver's visor or changing one of the wheels. Each person is working under intense pressure, but with such efficiency that, as a unit, they become an absolute machine."

"All the best teams are like that. In motor racing, you'd think of Williams. In football, you'd think of Liverpool in the Eighties. In rugby union, you'd probably think of the All Blacks. Since they were beaten in the 1995 World Cup final they've taken their game to another level." A level, of course, that England must match at Old Trafford on Saturday. Stirring deeds, rather than soothing words, will be required.



Dallaglio knows England's performance left room for improvement

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GOLF

Men talk their way to victory

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PRAIA D'EL REY, PORTUGAL

THE Battle of the Sexes turned out to be less a contest more a war of words. The Seniors, captained by Tommy Horton, ran away with it over this outstanding new links course, winning the third day's singles against the women professionals of Europe by 5-4 and thus the inaugural European Cup 13-7.

When men play golf against women, the key question is how much of an advantage from the tees the men should concede to make it a test of skill and not strength. Determining this is every bit as difficult coming up with a satisfactory solution to some centuries-old religious dispute.

But in the five fourballs, on Saturday, the event's officials were at fault. The women needed more of an advantage at this form of golf, particularly on a windy day. The women were well-beaten and to all intents and purposes the competition ended there and then.

At times the event resembled a nursery game. He who squealed loudest and longest won the day. It was the men after foursomes on Friday, the women after the fourballs on Saturday and there was kind of an eerie silence after the singles.

"Our tees are too far back," the men said on Friday evening, when the first day's five foursomes had ended level, 2-2.

When the tees were adjusted for the second day's play, it was the women's turn to howl. "Our tees were not far enough forward," the women said after they had been whitewashed in the fourballs and the score had moved to 7-2.

"It is totally unfair," Marie Laure de Lorenzi, the women's captain, said, ignoring the fact that the men had actually played very well (they were 3-4 under par for the 67 holes they played) and emphasizing, instead, how difficult the women found playing this course in a firm wind.

"The men had whinged after the foursomes and got what they wanted. We played well today but it was totally demoralising."

The tees were adjusted for the third day's singles to give the women a further advantage, 330 yards on the front

and 235 on the homeward nine. "We were very conscious we did not want the men to run away with the first three matches," Keith Waters, a Senior tour official, said. For a while the men did not. Trish Johnson, who went from being two up after two holes, to two down after 11, finished like a champion against Antonio Garrido. A birdie on the 16th and another on the short 17th saw her home.

In the second match, David Creamer demonstrated an unusual technique on the greens. Instead of prostrating himself in front of de Lorenzi, which is what men are inclined to do to the former model, he lay on his back to look down the line of his putt when the green sloped away from him. This unusual technique was not enough for him to stop the women's captain winning 3 and 1.

Though Jim Rhodes lost to Karen Lunn by taking a five on the 18th and Brian Waites halved his match against Maria Hjorth, the men at the rear of the field were taking control. All four won.

Matches ended with a touching display of gallantry. The women would extend their hand, the men lean forward and peck them on the cheek. Such politesse was almost always followed by brave talk about gallantry and good fun. Only Kathryn Marshall, who scored a birdie on the 18th, having won the 7th, to beat Maurice Bernbridge, openly talked of the extra edge that existed in a match such as this.

"Any competitor does not want to lose," she said, "and this female-male thing makes it much more pleasurable to win. There was a wee bit of niggles but I suppose we'll all go out together tonight, have a few drinks and have a good time."

In victory, Horton presented the image of a relieved man. So, more than likely, would men the world over. One of his team had spoken to him about the unspeakable — losing to women. "You're playing with my pension," he had said to his captain. Horton concluded: "We were all very apprehensive."

Scores, page 43



Westwood keeps his eyes on the prize during his successful bid to retain the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters title

Japan hails Europe's rising son

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN GOTEKBA, JAPAN

THE Japanese are calling Lee Westwood Europe's Tiger Woods, and the 24-year-old from Workepo, who covets the world No 1 spot himself, did nothing to disabuse his hosts of that notion when he won one of their biggest tournaments, the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters, for the second successive year at Goteba, near Tokyo, yesterday.

It was Westwood's third individual victory of the season (he also played a full part in Europe's Ryder Cup win at Valderrama), his second in three weeks and probably the most impressive of his short career. Three shots clear after a third round of 65, seven under par, he withstood a strong initial challenge from Mark O'Meara, the United States Ryder Cup player, and a late charge from Japan's finest — the brothers Ozaki — to win by a shot.

The Englishman's final round of 71 gave him a total of 272, 16 under par and earned him 27 million yen. It sounds like a lot of money, and it is — it translates into something like £130,000 — and Westwood's earnings in the past three weeks are in the region of £440,000, taking his prize-money for the season to more than a £1 million so far. (He made a little dent in the total by buying his father, John, a Land Rover for his fiftieth birthday today.)

This week he is competing in the Dunlop Phoenix, Japan's richest tournament. Next week his world tour — he played in Spain, where he won the Volvo Masters, and in the US, where he was second in the Subaru Sarazen World Open, in the weeks preceding the Japan jaunt — takes him to Melbourne for the Holden Australian Open.

"If I win the next two tournaments, I might buy an aeroplane," Westwood, already a seasoned globe-trotter, said.

It was far from a wistful thought, for he is a confident young man with a placid nature and takes everything as it comes. "You've got to take your chances when you're playing well and when you get on a roll, you can see yourself winning every week."

Yesterday, on another bleak day (the course is renowned for its views of Mount Fuji, but the landmark was shrouded in cloud all week) Westwood's serene temperament survived a severe test. He three-putted twice in the first five holes — at the 1st and the 5th — but reached the turn in level par thanks to birdies at the par fives, the 3rd and 6th.

O'Meara, meanwhile, had gone out in 33 and drew level, on 15 under par, with a birdie three at the 10th. The American lost his edge when he missed a two-foot birdie putt at the long 11th — where Westwood secured his four

to regain the lead — and he fell back completely with bogeys at the 15th and 16th, to leave the chase to the Ozaki boys.

Joe, a regular on the US Tour, had three successive birdie threes from the 14th to cut the lead to one, but dropped a shot at the short 17th and had to hole a 15-footer at the last for a birdie four to tie with Jumbo, Japan's No 1 and the world No 5, on 273, 15 under. Jumbo, over the showman, had finished with an eagle three but Westwood was happy to settle for a conservative, if not quite palpitation-free, five.

The last putt was only two feet, but Westwood had missed one of the same length at the 14th, and that was on his mind. It was not lost on anyone else, either, for television re-ran the miss as the Englishman was surveying his putt on the 18th. But there was to be no reprise — and no reprieve for the Ozakis.

HOCKEY

Southgate put end to reign of cup-holders

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE moved into the fifth round of the English Hockey Association Cup yesterday with a comfortable 4-1 home win against Teddington, the holders. Reading, the runners-up last year, had better luck with a 4-2 victory at East Grinstead.

Duncan Woods converted two short corners for Southgate, whose sharper reactions inside the circle paid dividends. Teddington made little headway against the home side's sound defence and found their rhythm only in the last ten minutes. Further goals by Shaw and Carolan pushed Southgate into a 4-0 lead before Wallis scored from a short corner in the 66th minute for Teddington.

Reading took control of their match against East Grinstead in the second half after an interval score of 1-1. Ashdown scored two goals for Reading, one from a short corner, with Pearn and Wyatt, from a short corner, chipping in. Welsh, from a short corner, and Laird replied.

Canterbury recorded the day's highest score with a 10-5 victory at home against Guildford. Denny Laslett hitting the target four times for

Canterbury from open play. Other premier division clubs to survive were Cannock, Bessan, Doncaster, Hounslow, Old Loughtonians and Barford Tigers.

Hounslow were taken to extra time by Surbiton with the score at 2-2. Gillmon scoring for Hounslow in the 81st minute from a short corner for a 3-2 victory.

The only non-league clubs left in the competition are Chichester, Ipswich, Spalding and Old Cranleighans. Sheffield went down 4-3 to Chichester after Chichester had led 3-2 by half-time. The scorers for Chichester were Savory (two) and Lock, who converted two short corners. The goals for Sheffield were obtained by Cordon, Bradshaw from a short corner and McAuliffe.

Cannock's 3-3 draw against East Grinstead in the national league on Saturday kept them on top of the premier division, a point ahead of Southgate, who defeated Guildford 4-0. Simons scored twice for Southgate, with Attala and Shaw adding to the score. Bhatti saved East Grinstead from defeat at home with an equalising goal two minutes before the end.

Ipswich bow out

SUTTON COLDFIELD made amends for their dismal display in front of goal in their 2-1 defeat by Ipswich in the premier division on Saturday with a 3-0 win over the Suffolk team in the third round of the EHA Cup yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

The league result keeps Ipswich in second place in the table behind the unbeaten champions and title favourites, Slough, who swept to a 6-3 victory against Trojans. "Our season is effectively over because we have very little realistic chance of defeating Slough," Donna Mills, the Ipswich manager, said. "We have a growing list of injuries and are just hoping to have 11 fit players for Saturday's game against them. Our backs are against the wall."

Determined to improve their lowly league position, Sutton paid a heavy price after Charlotte Merrett missed two first-half opportunities, and Louise Turney

blundered three times in a five-minute spell after the break, against Ipswich. Jane Sixsmith levelled after Tracy Fry opened the scoring from a 24th-minute penalty corner, before Sarah Bamfield finished in style.

Seizing on their opportunities in the cup match, Sutton booked their place in the fourth round with a much-improved performance. Nicky Hickdon set them on their way in the seventh minute, before Sixsmith and Turney took the game beyond Ipswich.

Slough romped home 9-0 against Sherwood but Hightown, the holders, were taken to a penalty shoot-out by non-league Hampstead and Westminster after drawing 1-1. Kate Walsh, Tina Cullen, who hit the equaliser, and Fiona Lee all scored from the spot to put the Merseysiders through.

Results, page 43

CRICKET: PAKISTAN'S EMERGING TALENTS MAKE THEM SLIGHT FAVOURITES TO BEAT WEST INDIES

Wasim's return should tilt Test balance

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

TWO teams with a sense of mission begin the Test match that starts today in this frontier city close to the Khyber Pass. Pakistan have just been beaten at home by South Africa; West Indies want to amend the widely held view that the modern game is passing them by. Failure for either could have significant consequences.

Having inspected a dry, cracked pitch that is expected to offer turn sooner rather than later, both sides will test debuts to slow bowlers. West Indies will rely on Rawl Lewis, a 23-year-old leg spinner from the Windward Islands, to support the familiar pace team of Walsh, Ambrose and Bishop. Pakistan have promoted a local off-spinner, Arshad Khan, who plays ahead of Saqlain Mustaq in the first game of a three-match series.

Wasim Akram, restored to the captaincy now that his injured shoulder has healed, explained that Saqlain, who played for Surrey in the county championship in the summer, had mislaid his best form against South Africa. Arshad, at 26 a veteran by Pakistani standards, partners Mushaq Ahmed in an attack that is also without Waqar Younis.

Shahid Nazir is preferred to Waqar, whose absence is accounted for by the

long-standing foot injury that has clipped two yards off his fastest pace and by the flatness of the pitch. Haroon Rashid, the team manager, thought it best to conserve the bowler's fitness for the subsequent Tests in Rawalpindi and Karachi, where he hoped the pitches would be livelier.

Pakistan have never been short of talented young players but, at the moment, they appear to have an embarrassment of riches. In order to accommodate Aamir Sohail, who moves up to his customary opener's position, they have left out Ali Naqvi, who, three Tests ago, made a century on his debut. Nor is there room for Hasan Raza, the wonder boy, last year, or Shahid Afridi, who has blotted his copybook by going off to play in Bangladesh without the board's consent.

It is never easy to gauge the mood of the Pakistan team. To infer too much from the recent defeat against South Africa and their indifferent form in the one-day competition that followed would be erroneous. They remain a side chock-full of brilliant players and, now that Wasim is back to apply a steady hand on the tiller, they must be favoured to beat West Indies.

This is a busy winter of international cricket for Pakistan, who play fewer Test matches than the other established nations. In the new year they go



Wasim: restored to captaincy

to South Africa for three more Tests and, if Wasim is not to be a victim of pass-the-parcel, the game by which this country tends to appoint its captains, his men really need to win this series.

There is a smell of decay about their opponents. Clive Lloyd, the team manager, is entitled to point out that they have lost only one series away from the Caribbean in the past 17

years, but this side has been in decline for at least three years, sustained in that time by the astonishing tenacity of Walsh and Ambrose and the sporadic brilliance of Lara.

It is asking a lot of young Lewis to pitch him in for a debut in conditions that are as foreign to these players as they could possibly be. When they ruled the roost with their divisions of fast bowlers, West Indies abandoned the art of spin bowling as a means of winning matches. Now they are struggling to find fast bowlers of the necessary quality.

Walsh, 35, and Ambrose, a year junior, are approaching the end of their distinguished Test careers. They have taken 645 wickets between them and have hardly missed a match in the course of their labours. Bishop, deprived by injury of the chance to become truly great, has also turned 30. Before long, it seems, Rose and Dillon may be leading the attack. It does not sound a frightening prospect.

Campbell and Stuart Williams retain their places at the top of the order, despite a claim by the uncapped Philo Wallace, who made a career-best 142 against an Invitation XI in Rawalpindi last week. There is an English presence in Peshawar. David Shepherd is standing as the neutral umpire and Raman Subba Row is the match referee.

Headache for Higgins as Ponting threatens upset

JOHN HIGGINS today requires the strongest fightback of his short but highly successful professional career in order to prevent the most surprising result of the Nineties at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship in Preston.

After a session he would prefer to forget, Higgins, edged out 10-9 by Stephen Hendry in the final last year, is trailing Gary Ponting, of Bristol, 7-1 and is within two frames of elimination.

Runner-up in the Grand Prix last month and for some time Hendry's closest pursuer in the world rankings, Higgins has rarely performed less effectively. Ponting, the world No 84, did nothing particularly special, but pulled away steadily.

A clearance of 42 enabled Higgins to steal the sixth frame on the pink, but he could not generate any momentum. Already frustrated by his form, the Scot had no luck in the closing frame of the

afternoon when he went in-off after potting the brown and Ponting cleared up.

Ponting, qualified for the final televised stages of the 1994 World Championship as a rookie, but, prone to nigraines, he has made little impact since. Before this tournament, he had failed to win a match this season.

Hendry's 5-2 defeat by Tai Pichit, an amateur wild-card entry, in the first round of the 1994 Thailand Open, is generally regarded as the biggest upset of the decade, but unless Higgins can win eight of the remaining nine frames, that will be overturned.

Higgins rallied from a 6-1 deficit to beat Tony Drago 9-8 12 months ago, but an immeasurable improvement will be needed to block Ponting's path into the last 32.

On the eve of the World Championship this year, Ken Doherty was criticised publicly by Ian Doyle, his manager,

as "unprofessional". It was the motivational prod the Irishman required and he went on to capture the title.

Fast forward six months and again Doherty has discovered a timely source of inspiration as he attempts to join Steve Davis, John Parrott and Hendry as the only player to complete the World and UK Championship double in the same year.

To say Doherty was annoyed by the bookmakers installing him as 20-1 outsider would be an exaggeration. Nevertheless, he is justified in believing his achievement at the Crucible has been undervalued and is determined to prove them wrong.

"To make me 20-1 is an absolute joke," Doherty, who reached the third round on Saturday with a 9-5 victory over Karl Broughman, said. "I'm not a gambler myself, but I know good value when I see it and I'm sure a few folks back home will take advantage."

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JAMAICA

Broadcasters strive to get on rugby wavelength

According to Mark Durden-Smith, this was phase one of Mission Southern Hemisphere. For Clive Woodward, it was phase one of Mission Rebuild. And, for BSkyB, it was phase one of let's-make-this-as-much-like-Grandstand-as-we-possibly-can.

It was an uncharacteristically unadventurous approach by the satellite broadcaster, but then rugby has always been a conservative game. Investing in a satellite dish was considered enough of a shock to be going on with.

The plan now is to make England rugby fans feel at home as quickly as possible. Familiarity came in the form of Nick Farr-Jones, the former Australia captain, whose technical analysis has been one of the cornerstones of the BBC's five nations' coverage in the past few seasons, and Bill Beaumont, whose broadcasting career looked to have come to an end last season along with the BBC's contract.

As for gently reminding people that England's home internationals are now on satellite, I can't think of a better way than with four games against the three best sides in the world over successive weekends.

Sky's studio foursome was completed by some home-grown talent. Durden-Smith, who with half a season presenting club rugby behind him is already a competent anchor man, and Stuart Barnes, its fast-talking expert

summariser. The effect was good, but it could have been better.

What it lacked was a representative from the Will Carling glory years, years that changed the public perception of English rugby forever by making it both glamorous and fashionable. Carling himself was the obvious choice, so obvious that ITV had snapped him up to front their recorded coverage, which, thanks to the delayed kick-off at Twickenham, got underway barely 15 minutes after the final whistle had blown.

On the BBC, it was a position that the articulate Rob Andrew made his own, so there was a certain justice in watching Barnes, his perennial understudy, seeking to do



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

the same on Sky. But, for all his caption reading "England 84-93", you don't have to be a rugby historian to know that's not quite the whole story.

If suggesting Barnes make way again sounds harsh, it isn't, for two reasons. First, Barnes's successful media career is founded on his maverick reputation, the angry outsider — that's why Sky chose him in the first place for their club coverage. Only for

international does he need to make way for somebody who was an automatic first choice — an Andrew, an Underwood, a Moore.

The second reason why Barnes could painlessly vacate a studio chair is that he wouldn't have to move very far. His double-handed commentary with the enjoyably reliable Miles Harrison may lack the poetry of Bill McLaren but, in terms of

accuracy and instant analysis, it's top notch. Barnes is also the natural first choice for perhaps the main thing lacking on Saturday's build-up, a recorded, set-piece interview with Clive Woodward, the new England coach. Graham Simmons, Sky's roving reporter, did well with a couple of hastily grabbed minutes, but England's first game under its new coach needed something more formal to set the scene.

But, if Sky's studio panel needs a bit of gentle retraining, then ITV's needed a serious rethink. Having spent all its money on Carling, his studio guests were Bob Dwyer and Damian Hopley. These are guests for rugby's cognoscenti, not for mass-market terrestrial television. Ironically, the

obvious house-wife's choice candidate appeared the other side of the early evening news when Jeremy Gossett presented *Gladiators*.

Carling himself was fine — indeed, the biggest challenge he seemed to face was squeezing those famously arrogant features into something resembling a welcoming smile. Bit more practice and he might actually manage it.

For the match itself, ITV fielded probably the strongest of its commentary teams from the last World Cup, John Taylor and Steve Smith. The pictures were exactly the same as Sky's, except for the fact that its replays didn't make that maddening "whoosh, whoosh" noise.

More than once, Sky had

reason to regret its passion for replays. In the first half, a quickly-taken penalty was dangerously missed, while, in the second, the director seemed to be under the illusion that the ball was immediately "dead" after a missed penalty kick.

But, all in all, it was a good weekend for rugby on television. Sky got its feet under the table at Twickenham, ITV ensured that the next World Cup won't come as quite the culture shock the last did and the BBC showed, if not entirely convincingly with live coverage of the one-sided encounter between Ireland and the All Blacks and Wales versus Tonga, that there is life after England. It, too, has better weekends to come.

Streets of Dublin paved with qualified optimism and peculiar logic on day of international setbacks

Irish take defeats in their stride

A fine, cautious distinction was current everywhere in Dublin on Saturday. "More hopeful than optimistic" was how it went. Very Irish, you might think, but in the circumstances it made good sense. Ireland were playing the All Blacks in the afternoon at Lansdowne Road (chance of winning: nil), with a last-ditch football World Cup qualifier against Belgium in Brussels in the evening.

"Judgment Day", the newspapers rather recklessly called it. But only a fool would pin too much on the outcome of a day so obviously loaded against the green-shirted from the start. "Give 'em laces", exhorted one paper railyard. But, to reflect the real mood, it might have added, in smaller letters, "Or give it a try, anyway."

I was optimistic myself. But that was before I started to read about the Ireland team, and was obliged to fall in with the thumbs-down realists. Because, it turns out sadly, whereas a few years ago Jack Charlton led a stout-hearted team to undreamt-of international honours, things have changed recently, and nobody mentions Macedonia around here unless they're ordering a fruit salad.

The trouble is linked to demography. By some accident of births, deaths and retirements, Mick McCarthy's side is a spatchcock of retirement-ready, battle-scarred gaffers and demoralised babes-in-arms, with scarcely an able-bodied, first-team footballer.

Moreover, two weeks previously, in the home leg against Belgium, the boys in green had performed so badly that they had been lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw. Luc Nilis wrought havoc, and McCarthy's future as manager was called into question.

"Bring back Jack," a woman at the bus stop said on Friday. "Joe Kinnear's your man," a bloke in O'Neills, a Dublin pub, said

LYNNE TRUSS



before the match on Saturday. Although the bloke was so drunk he couldn't work out how to dismount a bar stool, that sounded rather astute.

Nevertheless, come on, you boys in green. Forget the rugby result. Forget this Nilis chap. This isn't a funeral. Ask yourself, are you really scared of Belgium? Personally, I didn't really understand why Belgium would be such a terrifying opponent, in any case. People don't generally quake at the name. True, Jean-Claude van Damme is a Belgian, but then so was that gentle fellow, René Magritte. Just imagine the Belgians all playing with tubas on their heads. That ought to help, surely.

Going out on the Guinness in Dublin after a rugby international, when 49,000 disgruntled people might have the same idea, would be against my natural instinct. Ordinarily, so I'm ashamed to say I made Simon Barnes, my colleague at *The Times*, come with me to watch the footie on television in



Enthusiastic supporters in Dublin are still able to raise a glass and a smile, despite witnessing defeats for the Ireland rugby union and football teams

O'Neills. This was rather useful as he can quote James Joyce in big chunks.

Our position under a staircase started out as a fine observational place, but became more problematical as the evening progressed, and the hundreds drinking Guinness and shouting at the tops of their voices in this heating, hot pub turned to thousands. We could always see the screen, but the trouble is that, the more you retreat under a staircase, the more you contort your neck and the more you bang your head every time something exciting happens.

And the game really was exciting — far better, by all accounts, than the first leg. Leaving aside Belgium's first goal (too painful),

there was the excitement when the ref didn't give a penalty against Ireland (tee-hee), the considerable head-banging burst of joy when Ray Houghton equalised ten minutes into the second half; and then the dubious excitement when the ref gave a throw-in to the wrong bloke, leading to Belgium's second goal in the 68th minute — an elegant, not-to-say-miraculous, back-to-the-goal, over-the-shoulder chip by Mike Verstraeten that confused Shay Given and left a chance for Nilis to score again.

At this point, the reaction of the drinkers diverged from expectation, becoming oddly familiar from Irish beer commercials. Because, for heaven's sake, like the Murphy's, at 2-1 down, they

weren't bitter. "No, this is good, Belgium's goal is good for us," a bloke to our left reasoned. "It will make us score again, and then we'll win." He and his mates were having a seminar about the away-goals rule and how it was now in their favour.

Sports fans do this the world over — explain the scoring to each other. It's sweet. On Saturday night, of course, the aggregate system needed thinking about, because a Belgium goal was now worth less than an Ireland goal. Aha. Right. So, in a funny sort of way, by scoring that second goal (and taking the lead), Belgium had virtually handed the game over to

Ireland. I chipped in at this point. "And the thing is, the Belgians can't score again in Ireland, can they?" "Well," he said, "only on their holidays, but that wouldn't count."

Sadly, Belgium's kind-hearted strategy failed in the end, and Ireland did not give them any further lackery to speak of. Even when David Connolly was sent off, and Simon reasonably asserted, "down to ten men: that will make them do it", the Irish players failed to take their cue, and suddenly it was all over. The dream had died, and all that.

False dawns had given way to black days. Another pint, Simon? Do that James Joyce thing again. Remind me how you get off this

bar stool. All that. Naturally, one was very sad (and a bit drunk), although I couldn't help thinking of a bloke who told me, in apparent seriousness, that qualifying for the World Cup would just bring a lot of tension to next summer, you know?

"That's a novel way of looking at it," I said. But it's odd: before Saturday, I got the feeling the Irish were fed up with this World Cup already, and weren't unhappy to be spared the extra misery of competing in the finals. Another two years, however, and they'll be ready to try to qualify for the 2000 European championship. Let's just hope that Ireland's own version of McCarthyism doesn't witch-hunt McCarthy before then.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Ethics and Formula One

From Mr Nick Bittel

Sir, In all the furore over why the Government took the decision to exempt motor racing from the ban on tobacco sponsorship the actual decision seems to have been largely ignored.

Sport is not merely about employment or foreign earnings. Sport has the ability to inspire. At its best, sport is the stuff of souls. We have a duty as guardians of sport not just to the bottom line but also to those who look to sport for their inspiration.

Sport should stand up clearly and say that accepting tobacco sponsorship is an abrogation of this duty.

Yours faithfully,
NICK BITTEL,
Chief Executive,
London Marathon,
PO Box 1234, London SE1.
office@mbg.co.uk

From Mr Iain Quick

Sir, Jacques Villeneuve, within seconds of a World Championship win, makes way for another driver to win his first grand prix race.

Sporting, considerate, mature, tactically wise? Not a bit of it. That he was alleged to

have been ordered to do so by his team brings your opprobrium heaped upon him, them and the Formula One organisers.

Am I missing something?

Yours faithfully,
IAIN QUICK,
Brook Cottage,
Pork Lane,
Gt Holland,
Essex.

From Mr Philip Baker

Sir, A lifelong enthusiast for motor sport in most of its guises, I have been following the unfolding of the Schumacher debacle with growing dismay.

It became apparent many years ago that Formula One, the supposed pinnacle of the sport, had ceased to be a sport at all, but what saddens me now is that it can no longer be bothered to pretend.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP BAKER,
19 Marley Close,
Addlestone,
Surrey.

From Mr Robin Beare

Sir, The likelihood of collision between Formula One Teams and their drivers, together seeking to fix the result of a grand prix race (Report, November 10), would be much reduced if not eliminated were the Formula One authorities completely to ban radio com-

Blowing the whistle on Premiership referees

From Mr W. Benjamin

Sir, I read Lynne Truss's articles on referees (November 1 and 3) with interest but I am afraid that I disagree with her conclusions.

When did she last see a football match which was not marred in some way or other by the decisions of the officials in charge? Frank Leboeuf was a little nearer the mark (November 1) but I do not think things will or can improve until all the Premiership managers get together and insist that offending referees are charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute — for that is what they are doing, especially when a game is televised and their incompetence, inconsistency and in some cases apparent bias are there for all to see.

Referees should have to justify their decision: in front of a panel consisting of representatives from the FA management and players and, if the match was televised, then in front of the

viewing public. Only when referees can be seen to be consistent and unbiased will they get the respect that they keep on talking about.

Yours faithfully,
W BENJAMIN,
7 Bramford Court, High Street, Southgate, London.

From Mr R. Granville

Sir, In Michael Henderson's report of the Bolton-Liverpool game, he refers to referees as having to do their job "for petrol money and a shandy". In fact, Premiership referees get £375 a match plus travel and food expenses. So for an afternoon's work they receive as much as many people in this country receive for working all week.

Yours sincerely,
R GRANVILLE,
76 Compton Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I was interested to read Mrs Jan Hartshorn's comments (Sports Letters, November 10) describing Michael Schumacher's courtesy and politeness when dealing with waiters in the hotel where she worked. However, those waiters should remember that they were not trying to overtake Schumacher in a Formula One race.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, The sooner the pit lane circus that passes as Formula One carries out its threat to disappear to the Far East in a cloud of tyre and cigarette smoke the better for motor sport.

Cheating on the track and fixing the results are incompatible with the concepts of fair play and integrity which legitimise sporting achievement.

DAVID SIMPSON,
10 Ruscombe Gardens,
Datchet,
Berkshire.

From Mr Robert Lefroy

Sir, Ferrari did not deserve the 1997 championship as it demonstrated a lamentable lack of planning.

True professionals would follow the lead of American football and use blockers to take the opposition out, ensuring that Schumacher had an untroubled run to the line.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LEFROY,
Business Money Publications,
Strode House,
Street, Somerset.

From Mr David Eves

Sir, Is Michael Schumacher related to Harald Schumacher, the former West German goalkeeper, who committed the most horrendous foul on Patric Batistion in the World Cup semi-final in Seville in 1982 to prevent France reaching the final, but was not even shown a yellow card, let alone a red one? Was that also an "accident"?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EVES,
Green Street, St Helier,
Jersey, Channel Islands.

Football academies

From Mr Geoffrey Carver
Sir, The Professional Association of Teachers is seriously concerned that the football academies to be created by Premiership clubs will pre-

vent pupils from playing football for their school teams, seriously damaging inter-school sports. The amount of training and travelling time will also have a detrimental effect on their education.

Education should not, and must not, take second place to apparent attempts by some wealthy clubs to secure talent for themselves. Few of the pupils selected will make it as professionals. Those who do not will have their education disrupted and could miss out on important qualifications.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CARVER,
(PAT Senior Professional Officer),
2 St James' Court,
Friar Gate, Derby.

Albatross award

From Mr M. Molony

Sir, Is there an honour bestowed on golfers obtaining an albatross? I know of the Hole-In-One Society and the Ferrer Club but not of an Albatross Club. Recently a junior member at my club, Leatherhead, shot a two at our first hole — par five — and incidentally shot a three on our 16th — par five.

Yours faithfully,
M. MOLONY,
18 Carew Court,
Basinghall Gardens,
Sutton, Surrey.

This week in THE TIMES



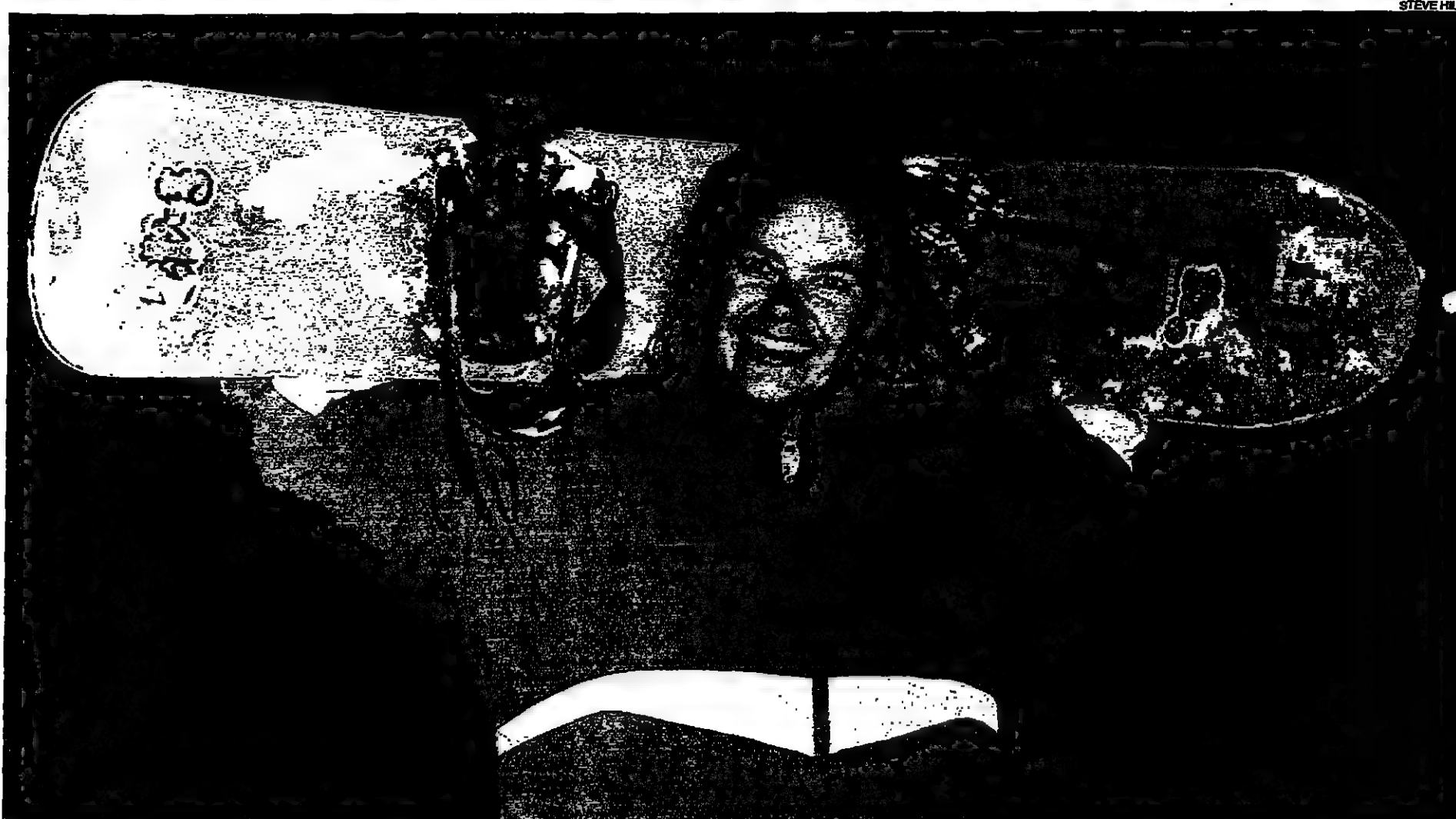
■ Tomorrow
Martina Hingis aims to finish the tennis year in style at the Chase Championship. Alix Ramsay reports from New York.

■ Wednesday
Having beaten Leicester and Sheffield Wednesday Grimsby continue their Coca-Cola Cup campaign at Liverpool.

■ Thursday
Which of six short-listed sports books will win the William Hill award for 1997?

■ Saturday
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

"Now all I want is a single board and a wide open mountain" — Victoria Walker discovers snowboarding



Regular or goofy? Victoria Walker stands on the board (which she describes as a "small ironing board") at a 90 degree angle to the front. The leading leg is the one closest to the front. Left-footed riders are called regular and right-footed, goofy

It simply takes great attitude

Snowboarding takes attitude. With his fashionable sideburns and neatly trimmed goatee, my instructor at the Tamworth Snowdome, John Sewell, oozed it. He advocated it, too: "The main thing is a positive attitude. It will not work for you if you are tense. You must have confidence in yourself."

This wasn't just bravado. Like surfing or skiing, the key to success is balance. Good posture is paramount; if you are tense and lean too far forward or too far back (in the mistaken belief that the closer you get to the ground, the less it will hurt if you fall), you will tumble.

Snowboards are about a foot across, and when stood on end should reach somewhere between your chest and nose.

Longer boards tend to be harder to manoeuvre for novices. Unlike a skier, the snowboarder stands on the board at a 90 degree angle to the front. The leading leg is the one closest to the front of the board. Left-footed people are called regular and, for reasons quite beyond me, right-footed riders are called goofy. (I feel a little sensitive about these terms and am not saying if I am right or left-footed.)

Curiously enough, before standing me on what I thought resembled a small ironing board, Sewell informed me that my first lesson was to involve some role reversal — I was to be the instructor guiding him down the slope. After my initial surprise, I saw that he wanted me to walk with him so that I could clearly see what he expected me to do.



Holding on to Sewell's hands, I walked in front of him as he demonstrated how to catch and release the toe edge of his board in the snow. This is called a side-slip. The board remains square to the slope, with the rider facing downhill. Sewell then repeated this exercise facing up the slope and

digging with his heel edge. Although this felt a little strange initially, it was quite an easy technique to master, simply involving raising toes or heels.

The second task I was to learn was the aptly named "falling-leaf". The descent of the slope by the rider is similar to that of an autumn leaf as it falls from a tree and glides to the ground in a gentle zigzag pattern. Traversing the slope with pressure on either my toe or heel edge I made my hesitant, slow way back and forth down the hill.

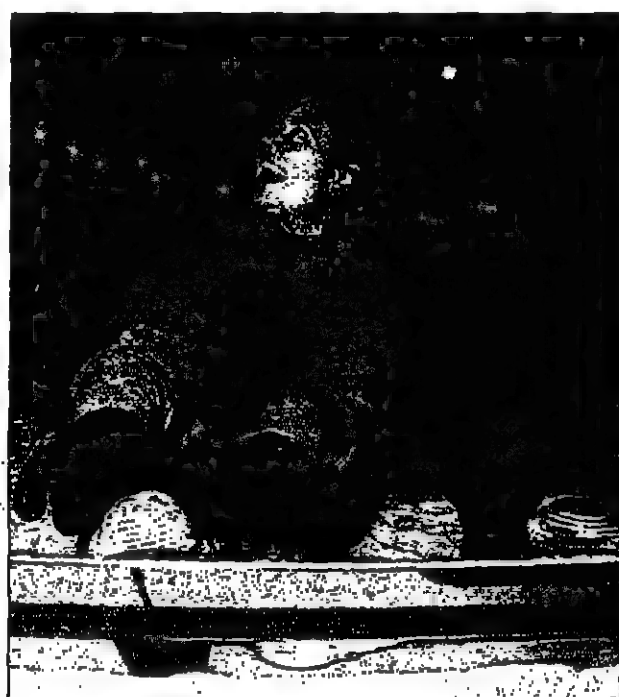
The wonderful thing was that after only ten minutes I was, effectively, snowboarding. Novice skiers must endure days on end of mastering technical skills such as the "snowplough" before graduating on to "parallels". But you

can't do snowploughs on a single board. So although there is much to learn and leading boarders can perform breathtaking feats, it did not seem to me as technically demanding as skiing.

Sewell then taught me how to traverse the breadth of the 30-metre slope before gently nudging me into a "straight" — facing directly downhill rather than meandering from side-to-side. In the sport's organic terminology these techniques are linked to form "garlands".

After an hour-long lesson it would be wrong to say that I could snowboard — I had still to master turns, for example, but I felt I was well on the way. Skiing, I have decided, is for foot-loos. For me, all I want is a single board and a wide open mountain. It appears I am not alone with such sentiments. "I will never go back to skiing," said Drew Roberts, 22, who has been snowboarding for almost three years.

Simon Smith is 25 and has been skiing for ten years. Two months ago he tried snowboarding for the first time and is hooked. "I found it quite easy to make the change from skiing to boarding," he said. "I was getting bored with skiing



For the learner, snowboarding is not as demanding as skiing

and wanted to try something new."

One of the most surprising things about snowboarding is just how civilised the kit is. The board is easy to carry. After having proved myself a

menace to pedestrians every time I carried skis, this was a joy to discover. Carrying one plank instead of two made a world of difference, and because it was shorter, I found I could hook it under my arm

just like a commuter carrying a rolled-up copy of *The Times* — well almost.

The boots, too, bear more resemblance to my favourite pair of walking boots than the hard and inflexible ski-boot. Padded, warm, with a well-marked tread and lace-ups, the boots clip into fixings attached to the board. I found I was comfortable walking both on snow and indoors with none of the ridiculous slow-motion "moonwalking" that ski-boots impose.

The clothing should keep you warm and dry, so gloves, water-proof, padded trousers and jackets are a must. The strength of the snowboarding culture means that there is a wealth of fashionable gear. Many of these snowboarding labels are leading the way in ski-wear design. The clothing I wore came from Snowboard Asylum, though normal ski-gear is also fine for snowboarding. Salopettes with reinforced knees and bottoms are a good idea because they tend to get more wear and tear. Many snowboarders also like to wear longer jackets to ensure their bottoms stay warm and dry.

Skateboarders aiming higher and higher

BY IVO TENNANT

According to those who have ridden the "vert ramp" and the street skate course, it is the most difficult of all sports to master. This is not officially recognised and it will never become an Olympic event. Yet for an exacting level of technique allied to sheer guts and gumption, skateboarding is regarded by its many participants as the non-parade.

What is often construed as no more than an irritating activity on pavements and footpaths by callow youths is, along with snowboarding, an increasingly attractive sport for young people. The Board X Festival '97, held in Battersea Park over the last three days and sponsored by *The Times*, attracted around 10,000 spectators. Many were novices who progressed, in due course, on to the ski slopes.

It is more than 15 years since a bunch of surfers from California took their boards up a mountain and reckoned that coming down on them was more fun than sitting on a tea tray. Hence snowboarding was born. This has progressed to the point at which it will be included in the next Winter Olympics in Japan. Skateboarding is another matter. Indeed, there is no particular desire to have it classified as a recognised sport at all.

There are obvious similarities. Snowboarding is visible on mountain slopes all over the world; it is estimated that by the turn of the century there will be as many boarders as skiers. Some ski resorts do not permit them, owing to a perception that the activity is dangerous, but most of the participants, those in the 18-26 age range, do not concern themselves with that.



A competitor in last week's Board X Festival in London

As with skateboarding, there is an incessant desire to jump higher and higher. Rune Clifberg, from California, who is regarded as one of the best skaters in the world, demonstrated as much indoors when the outdoor competition at Battersea was postponed on Friday and again on Saturday owing to rain.

The popularity is such that courses are being built all over the country. Not the least of the attractions is a link to fashion (markedly casual), music and a relaxed lifestyle and jargon. A skateboard is still relatively cheap, even if a snowboard is not. Skiing, by contrast, is seen

by the organisers of the festival as an old-fashioned attraction for older people, requiring far too early a start.

Steve Bailey, a 23-year-old from Manchester, graduated from skateboarding to snowboarding and is a candidate for the British Winter Olympics team in Japan in the new year. "I will have to pay part of my passage to get out there and I reckon it will be a number of years before boarding becomes more popular than skiing," he said. "There is no funding as yet and the most I have ever won is £200. I have learned a lot by my mistakes, but the drug is to go on to bigger and bigger jumps all the time."

Don't let a lack of snow hold you back

BY VICTORIA WALKER

YOU DO not have to invest in a board, all the gear and an expensive holiday in the Alps or the Rockies to try snowboarding. Many dry ski slopes offer snowboard lessons and hire out equipment. The British Snowboarding Association (BSA) is the official governing body and holds details on snowboarding facilities throughout Britain.

Prices vary, but tend to be reasonable. Southampton Ski & Snowboard Centre offers a two-day beginners' course for £40. Experienced riders can use the slope for £6.30 an hour and hire boards for an additional £2.

At Tamworth Snowdome, where I had my first lesson, you can learn on man-made snow from £22.50 an hour for adults and £17.50 for children (non-members) or £15.75 an hour for adults and £12.25 for children (members). This includes the hire of the board and boots.

Aviemore has expensive ski and snowboard runs and a snowboard school providing instruction and equipment hire. A two-day beginner's package costs £70 and includes board hire, lift passes and four hours of lessons.

If you would prefer to look before you leap and simply watch an experienced rider in action, the Sprite Demo Tour is roaming British ski slopes with sponsored riders ready to offer advice to novices. Entry is free and the next date is at Warmwell, Dorset, on November 30.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Deception is one of the hardest parts of the game, particularly when defending, as there is always the risk that partner will be more misled than declarer. One of the best times to try to mislead declarer is when you have all of the defensive assets. Today's hand is taken from a new book, *Expert Defence*, by Raymond Brock, a follow-on from his earlier *Step by Step: Planning the Defence*.

Dealer South	East-West game	IMPs
AK 1078 K 1084 Q942	N W E S J10932 Q888 J5 J8 8788 J732 8863	
AK 1078 K 1084 Q942	N W E S J10932 Q888 J5 J8 8788 J732 8863	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: Five of spades.

This deal occurred in the final of the 1995 World Junior Championship. The British declarer in the Closed Room played in Four Hearts. He lost two top spades and a spade ruff and then had no reason not to take the heart finesse, and thus went one down.

In the Open Room the New Zealanders reached Three No-Trumps and it looked to the VuGraph audience that the declarer would have to succeed. With the defenders threatening to take four spade tricks as soon as they got the lead he would have no option but to play both his long suits from the top and when the king of hearts dropped he would have ten tricks.

However, Justin Hackett found the excellent opening lead of the five of spades (systemically fourth best). As that was the lowest spade

outstanding, declarer thought that the spades were breaking 4-3. In which case he had a much better play for his game and that is what he tried. He played the queen of hearts, expecting it to hold the trick. Then he would revert to clubs. As long as the defence had only three spades to cash he would make his contract whenever clubs were 4-3 or the queen dropped doubleton or the king of hearts was singleton or doubleton. Unfortunately for him Justin won his king of hearts and cashed four spade tricks.

Expert Defence is available direct from the publishers, B.T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £9.99 (£1 p&hp).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

True Class
Tournament organisers at the Wrexham grandmaster international were most fortunate in attracting the Russian grandmaster Mark Taimanov to their competition. Considered one of the great powers of Soviet chess in the 1950s, Taimanov has always excelled in quite sight of the board and in the grand scope of his strategic perception.

Taimanov is still active and a fine game from his hands has all the elegance of a chess masterclass.

White: Eric Van den Doel
Black: Mark Taimanov
Owens Corning, Wrexham 1997

Sicilian Defence	
1 e4 c5	
2 Nf3 c6	
3 d3 Nc6	
4 g3 Nf6	
5 Bg2 d6	
6 B-0 Bc7	
7 f4 Bb8	
8 c3 Bc8	
9 Nbd2 Bf8	
10 d4 cxd4	
11 cxd4 Nc7	
12 Nf1 Bc7	
13 Na3 Bc8	
14 b3 a4	
15 b4 Na7	
16 d5 Bb6	
17 Bc2 Bc7	
18 Ne2 Qc7	
19 Nc3 Bc8	
20 Bc2 Bc7	
21 Qf3 Bc8	
22 h4 Bc7	
23 Rf3 Bc8	
24 Rb1 Bc8	
25 Rb7 Bc7	
26 Nb1 Bc8	
27 Nc3 Bc7	
28 Nb5 Bc7	
29 Bc3 Bc7	
30 Bf1 Bc8	

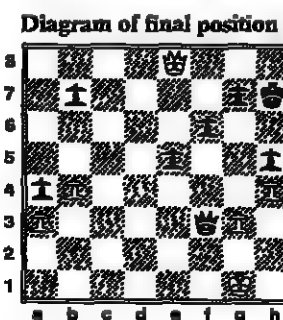


Diagram of final position

Hoogeveen
Another Russian veteran, the 76-year-old former world champion Vassily Smyslov, has also been active, on this occasion in Holland. At the Hoogeveen tournament first place was taken by Sutovski with 4/6, ahead of J Polgar and Van Wely both 3 and Smyslov 2. Although Smyslov found it difficult to compete with players approximately one third his age, he came close to beating Polgar and his performance maintained his current rating of 2480.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- RIEUSSEC
a. Sweet white wine
b. An 8th-century French Cardinal
c. The Latvian Foreign Office
- JOY GEAR
a. Light aircraft controls
b. A locomotive operating device
c. Masseuse's appliances

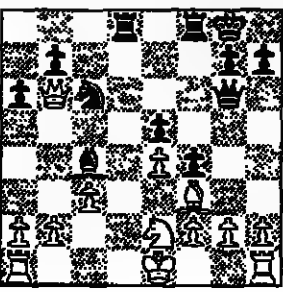
- HENDERSON GYRO
a. A naval gunnery aid
b. A private savings bank
c. An early wingless aircraft
- CACCIA
a. Confetti
b. Fruit syrup
c. A musical form

Answers on page 47

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Miles Speelman, Islington Open 1970. Black has invested a pawn in an attempt to exploit White's slight lack of development. How did he now make the most of his chances?



Solution on page 47

SNOWBOARD CONTACTS

British Snowboarding Association, 1st floor, 4 Trinity Square, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 2PY 01492 872540; Sprite Demo Tour 0171-336 6666; Southampton Ski & Snowboard Centre 01703 790970; Tamworth Snowdome 01827 67905; Cairngorm Ski Area, Aviemore 01479 561261.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: Margaret Resch won the 1997 Cross Country (Karl) 200m race. The winner was 17-year-old Resch, who finished in 2:25.45. Other runners included: 2nd, 22.55; 3rd, 23.45; 4th, 24.15; 5th, 24.45; 6th, 24.55; 7th, 25.15; 8th, 25.45; 9th, 26.15; 10th, 26.45; 11th, 27.15; 12th, 27.45; 13th, 28.15; 14th, 28.45; 15th, 29.15; 16th, 29.45; 17th, 30.15; 18th, 30.45; 19th, 31.15; 20th, 31.45; 21st, 32.15; 22nd, 32.45; 23rd, 33.15; 24th, 33.45; 25th, 34.15; 26th, 34.45; 27th, 35.15; 28th, 35.45; 29th, 36.15; 30th, 36.45; 31st, 37.15; 32nd, 37.45; 33rd, 38.15; 34th, 38.45; 35th, 39.15; 36th, 39.45; 37th, 40.15; 38th, 40.45; 39th, 41.15; 40th, 41.45; 41st, 42.15; 42nd, 42.45; 43rd, 43.15; 44th, 43.45; 45th, 44.15; 46th, 44.45; 47th, 45.15; 48th, 45.45; 49th, 46.15; 50th, 46.45; 51st, 47.15; 52nd, 47.45; 53rd, 48.15; 54th, 48.45; 55th, 49.15; 56th, 49.45; 57th, 50.15; 58th, 50.45; 59th, 51.15; 60th, 51.45; 61st, 52.15; 62nd, 52.45; 63rd, 53.15; 64th, 53.45; 65th, 54.15; 66th, 54.45; 67th, 55.15; 68th, 55.45; 69th, 56.15; 70th, 56.45; 71st, 57.15; 72nd, 57.45; 73rd, 58.15; 74th, 58.45; 75th, 59.15; 76th, 59.45; 77th, 60.15; 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822nd, 432.45; 823rd, 433.15; 824th, 433.45; 825th, 434.15; 826th, 434.45; 827th, 435.15; 828th, 435.45; 829th, 436.15; 830th, 436.45; 831st, 437.15; 832nd, 437.45; 833rd, 438.15; 834th, 438.45; 835th, 439.15; 836th, 439.45; 837th, 440.15; 838th, 440.45; 839th, 441.15; 840th, 441.45; 841st, 442.15; 842nd, 442.45; 843rd, 443.15; 844th, 443.45; 845th, 444.15; 846th, 444.45; 847th, 445.15; 848th, 445.45; 849th, 446.15; 850th, 446.45; 851st, 447.15; 852nd, 447.45; 853rd, 448.15; 854th, 448.45; 855th, 449.15; 856th, 449.45; 857th, 450.15; 858th, 450.45; 859th, 451.15; 860th, 451.45; 861st, 452.15; 862nd, 452.45; 863rd, 453.15; 864th, 453.45; 865th, 454.15; 866th, 454.45; 867th, 455.15; 868th, 455.45; 869th, 456.15; 870th, 456.45; 871st, 457.15; 872nd, 457.45; 873rd, 458.15; 874th, 458.45; 875th, 459.15; 876th, 459.45; 877th, 460.15; 878th, 460.45; 879th, 461.15; 880th, 461.45; 881st, 462.15; 882nd, 462.45; 883rd, 463.15; 884th, 463.45; 885th



Alex Rippon, one of hundreds of competitors taking part in a bit of cunning running at the British Schools Orienteering Championships yesterday. Photograph: Roy Riley

Orienteering finds its way at school

By IVO TENNANT

IF A treasure hunt with a map and a compass can be called a sport, it is one that will always have an appeal. Nine hundred and fifty schoolchildren, ranging in age from nine to 18, took part in the annual British Schools Orienteering Championships yesterday, testing their wits as much as their speed in an activity that is not known for nothing as cunning running.

Orienteering only took off in Britain in the 1960s and 200 schools now belong to the British Schools Orienteering Association (BSOA) — around 50 of which regard it as a prime sport. Indeed, this most healthy, cheap and fulfilling pursuit can now be studied within physical education at GCSE level.

It is also entirely safe: no one is lost for long, even in a dense thicket. Orienteers will say that they are temporarily unsure of their location

but never lost. Even so, it is a dispiriting experience for young children if they take a wrong turn at the beginning of the course, which is why immense care is taken over the drawing of the maps. Not until a boy or a girl is 13 or 14 is he or she expected to have a reasonable range of orienteering skills.

The main category in the championships, held this year near Winchester and sponsored by Hampshire County Council and Silva Compasses, was won for the third year running by Ulverston Victoria High School, a comprehensive in Cumbria. The PE teacher, Clare Evans, did not take up orienteering until 1988, and only the following year it was run as an out-of-school event. "It was a case of the blind leading the blind," she said. "That and some bullying."

Girls have taken to orienteering more readily than boys at Ulverston. "The children like the social side,"



Evans said. "They like sleeping in dormitories and making a weekend of an event. Ulverston cuts costs through its pupils bringing sleeping bags and spending a night or two in village halls. The teachers and any parents who come with them, too. Each pupil needs to come up with no more than £12 for a two-day trip."

The first course yesterday, for nine and ten-year-olds, lasted for 1.7km.

Sixth formers were required to walk or run over 6.2km. "Hitting or throwing a ball is a generic skill," Ned Paul, the editor of *Compass Sport*, said. "Orienteering looks as if it is not, but at the age of eight, it becomes so. A child never loses the ability to handle a map."

Out of 159 schools, only one was from London. Competitors came from as far afield as Scotland, Northern Ireland and, in particular, from within range of the Lake District, one of the most demanding, as well as scenic, orienteering areas in the country. Cannock Chase, in Staffordshire, is also a particularly strong district.

Matr Crane, 16, who is at Walton High School, Stafford, has already taken part in three events in Scandinavia, the cradle of the sport. He finished in 29min 47sec yesterday. "This was an easy course," he said, "but it was still a challenge. You have to keep your brain in gear at the end

but, as you move up the age scales, you become more reliant on physical activity."

Another school that excels is King's, Macclesfield, in Cheshire. Richard Bradfield, 15, who has gone orienteering since he was 11, was attracted in part by the lure of the scenery. "I would go running if it was not so monotonous," he said. "This is sport for all ages, involves faster running and is a mental and physical pursuit rather than just one or the other."

Frances Stone, the chairman of BSOA, said: "Being part of the national curriculum for junior school children as well as the PE curriculum has given orienteering impetus and growth. A lot of schoolchildren are becoming aware of the sport internationally and hence it is becoming more popular. I see no reason why it should not continue to grow."

Results, page 43

PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Henman cashes in on English good looks and playing skills

So, Tim Henman can earn £60,000 for playing just one tennis match in Haverfordwest?

The ATP championships are one of the richest events in tennis, but it is still not bad for a day's work. In his convincing victory over Yevgeni Kafelnikov, Tim was effectively earning £6,000 for every game he played in the two-set match. In contrast, Tim will get just £9,000 for winning the national championships in Telford yesterday.

Tim must make a bit over the whole season?

Sure. The latest winnings will bring his total prize-money this year to around £500,000. But this is only around half the amount earned by Greg Rusedski, who has doubled his career earnings in a season. His astonishing climb up the rankings since the US Open final — when he lost to Pat Rafter, of Australia — in September has been matched by the £700,000 or so he has earned in prize-money during the past few months.

Sounds like easy money to me; how can you sign up?

The top 50 are the only players to earn really serious money. You need to be in the top 250 to make a living wage from the game, while those ranked beyond 1,000 are making less than \$200 a season in prize-money. So, think twice before giving up that day job.

But can't you rake in the cash from off-court activities as well?

A rough rule of thumb is that players can double their on-court prize-money with sponsorship and other corporate link-ups, so Greg should be on course to make around £2 million next year — providing he retains his good form. At the moment, he has a deal with Nike, worth a relatively paltry £65,000, as well as smaller deals with Wilson rackets, Nestlé and Rado. But he has called in Ivan Blumberg, who sorted out the sponsorship side for Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg, to take advantage of his new-found earning power. As a top-five player, he will also pick up some extra perks, such as chauffeur-driven limousines and top-notch hotels wherever he appears in tournaments.

So Tim will not only be Britain's No 2 in ranking terms but also in earning power?

Not necessarily. Tim has used his English good looks to put together a series of sponsorship contracts worthy of anyone in the top five. Tim's endorsement portfolio includes a £7.5 million, long-term deal with Adidas and a £1.5 million contract with Slazenger, which also contains a £2 million bonus clause if he breaks into the top ten. He also has deals with Mercedes and Midland Bank to help to keep him in pocket. Greg's famous grin still cannot quite compete in the sponsorship stakes, although another year of outstanding on-court success should finally close the gap.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

House of Lords

Law Report November 17 1997

House of Lords

Whether actions are related

Sarrio SA v Kuwait Investment Authority

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Saville

[Reasons November 13]

Whether actions were related for the purpose of article 22 of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters signed at Brussels in 1968 and scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 should be determined in a broad common sense manner and no distinction was to be drawn between primary or essential and non-essential issues.

The House of Lords gave reasons for allowing, on October 30, an appeal by the defendants, Kuwait Investment Authority, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Brooke) (1997) 1 Lloyd's Rep 113, who had allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Sarrio SA, from Mr Justice Mance (1996) 1 Lloyd's Rep 650 and lifted a stay imposed by him on the defendants' application for the plaintiffs' action against them to be struck out.

Article 22 of the Brussels Convention provides: "Where related actions are brought in the courts of different contracting states, any court other than the court first seized may, while the actions are pending at first instance, stay its proceedings."

"A court other than the court first seized may also, on the application of one of the parties, decline jurisdiction if the law of that court permits the consolidation

of related actions and the court first seized has jurisdiction over both actions."

"For the purposes of this article, actions are deemed to be related where they are so closely connected that it is expedient to hear and determine them together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments resulting from separate proceedings."

Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC, Mr Andrew Popplewell, QC and Mr Paul Wright for the defendants; Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC, Mr Charles Hollander and Mr Adrian Briggs for the plaintiffs.

LORD SAVILLE said that in February 1993 the plaintiffs had started proceedings in Spain against the defendants and others claiming that the defendants were liable to them for substantial amounts unpaid under an executed put option given to them in connection with the sale of their special paper business.

While those proceedings were pending they had also started English proceedings against the defendants claiming damages for negligent misrepresentations allegedly made during the negotiations for the sale of the business.

The defendants had resisted the English proceedings on the ground, inter alia, that they fell within article 22. It was common ground that if the English and Spanish actions were related then the Spanish court was first seized. The debate had concentrated on whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments arising from the two sets of proceedings.

The Court of Appeal had considered the approach of the European

Court of Justice, including the opinion of the Advocate General, in *The Maciej Rataj Case C-406/92* (1995) 1 Lloyd's Rep 302; sub nom *The Turky* (1994) ECR I-5439 and concluded that the issues that had to be considered in deciding whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments were:

"The issues of fact or law which have to be decided in order that the court can reach its judgment in the particular case. These can be described as 'primary' issues and they are limited to those facts and issues which are necessary to establish a cause of action. The court's decisions on these primary issues represent the process of reasoning upon which its judgment is based. But they do not include... other issues of fact which the court may or may not decide and which are not essential to its conclusion in this way."

His Lordship could not accept that article 22 should be interpreted or applied in that way. He would find nothing in the opinion of the Advocate General or the judgment of the European Court in *The Maciej Rataj* to support the distinction drawn.

The wide words of article 22 militated against the suggested limitation. They were designed to cover a range of circumstances, from cases where the matters before the courts were virtually identical, although not falling within article 21, to cases where, although that was not the position, the connection was close enough to make it expedient for them to be heard and determined together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments.

Those latter words were required if irreconcilable judgments

extended beyond primary or essential issues, so as to exclude actions that, although theoretically capable of giving rise to conflict, were not sufficiently closely connected to make it expedient for them to be heard and determined together.

It had to be borne in mind that article 22 was concerned not with the substantive rights and obligations of the parties but with the ancillary and procedural question as to where in the Community those rights and obligations should be heard and determined.

There was nothing in the Convention that suggested that it was in the interests of the Community that litigation on that question should be made more expensive and time-consuming than necessary.

There should be a broad common sense approach to the question whether actions were related, bearing in mind the objective of article 22, applying the simple test set out and explained in the Advocate General's opinion and the judgment of the European Court in *The Maciej Rataj*. That had been the judge's approach.

He had decided that the plaintiffs' action should be stayed only in view of the stance then adopted by that court. Otherwise he would have declined jurisdiction, since it had seemed clear to him that the Spanish court permitted the consolidation of related actions and that that court had jurisdiction over both actions. The plaintiffs' stance had now changed and his order should be altered to one declining jurisdiction.

LORD GOFF, Lord Lloyd, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Linklaters & Paines.

Regina v Emmett and Another

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 13]

A defendant was entitled to appeal to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, against a confiscation order in respect of his proceeds of drug trafficking made under the provisions of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, now replaced by the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, notwithstanding his acceptance of a prosecution statement under section 3(1) and was entitled to argue that his acceptance had been based on a mistake of law or fact.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Schiemann, Mr Justice Morland and Mr Justice Collins) who on February 16, 1996, on appeals by Brian and Michael Emmett, had quashed confiscation orders made under section 1 of the 1986 Act by Judge E. G. Neville at Exeter Crown Court on October 25, 1995 following their pleas of guilty to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

Mr Paul Garlick, QC and Mr Nigel Lickley for the Crown; Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC and Mr Anthony Wilcken for the Emmetts.

LORD STEYN said that on November 7, 1993, after months of preparation in England and Spain, a group of men had started to unload a cargo of four metric tonnes of cocaine in the Canary Islands. The Emmetts had been some of the principal organisers. The street value of the cocaine had been some £13,000,000. The outlay for the whole operation had probably been of the order of £3,000,000. The Emmetts had been reduced on appeal to nine years.

Under the 1986 Act, the judge had first to consider whether the accused had benefited from drug trafficking and, if so, to make appropriate confiscation orders. Counsel for the four principal organisers, acting on instructions, had invited him to make agreed orders.

He had said: "It was agreed between counsel [that] the benefits accruing to Bracken, Lemonnier and both Emmetts amounted to £100,000. It was agreed that a confiscation order should be made

that except by specific provision the legislature would not exclude a right of appeal. Neither section 3 nor any other part of the 1986 Act contained any express provisions dealing with appeals to the Court of Appeal. Section 3(1) was a procedural provision designed to facilitate proof that a defendant had benefited from drug trafficking and to establish what the value of his proceeds had been."

In the context, the provision that the court might treat the defendant's acceptance of a prosecution statement as conclusive of the matters to which it related was capable of meaning no more than that the court might treat the acceptance as proof of the matters to which it related.

The Crown rightly accepted that with leave an appeal lay against a confiscation order as part of a sentence but submitted that the general right to appeal had been excluded by section 3(1) in respect of a defendant's acceptance of any allegation in a statement tendered by the prosecution and acted on by the court. "Conclusive" meant conclusive for all purposes: see *R v Tredwell* (1994) 99 Cr App R 154.

There was a strong presumption

that the legislature would not exclude a right of appeal. Neither section 3 nor any other part of the 1986 Act contained any express provisions dealing with appeals to the Court of Appeal. Section 3(1) was a procedural provision designed to facilitate proof that a defendant had benefited from drug trafficking and to establish what the value of his proceeds had been.

In the context, the provision that the court might treat the defendant's acceptance of a prosecution statement as conclusive of the matters to which it related was capable of meaning no more than that the court might treat the acceptance as proof of the matters to which it related. No necessary implication ousted the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal was justified.

The Court of Appeal nowadays had power to consider an argument that an unequivocal and informed plea of guilty had been induced by a fundamental mistake of law or fact. It was difficult to see what rational basis there could be for excluding such a right of appeal.

Under section 3(1) of the 1986 Act, the observations in *Tredwell* about the meaning and effect of section 3(1) were incorrect.

The question on such appeals would be not what mistake counsel had made but what mistake the defendant had made. The burden on the defendant might not be easily discharged. The focus would be on a material and causatively relevant mistake, and the Court of Appeal might still have to consider whether, absent a material mistake, the confiscation order would nevertheless have been inevitable. If that was the case, the appeal might have to be dismissed on the ground that on a global view no injustice could be shown.

His Lordship was satisfied that it had not been established that the Emmetts had agreed to the confiscation orders as a result of a mistaken view of the law. The orders had been justified on the evidence.

LORD GOFF, Lord Slynn, Lord Nicholls and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise; Ralph Haerms & Co.

Effective date of cause of action against insurance broker

Knapp and Another v Ecclesiastical Insurance Group plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment October 30]

A cause of action against an insurance broker who negligently advised a client to take out an insurance policy which was voidable and which the insurer avoided when the client tried to claim under it arose when the policy premium was paid and not when the insurer avoided the policy.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the second defendant, David Smith, trading as David Smith Insurance Brokers, against a decision of Sir Peter Webster sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division refusing to strike out an action brought by the plaintiffs, William and Denise Knapp, on the ground that it was time barred.

Mr Robert Walker, QC and Mr Adam Tolley for the second defendant; Mr Robert Jackson, QC and Mr Malcolm Sticher for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that for the purposes of the

first suffered damage as a result of the second defendant's alleged breach of duty so as to make that breach actionable.

The second defendant submitted that that was on April 12, 1990 when the renewal cover attached. The plaintiffs said that it was not until April 4, 1991 when the insurer elected to avoid the policy or alternatively on October 16, 1990 when the fire which led to the claim occurred.

His Lordship considered the authorities including *Pirelli General Cable Works Ltd v Oscar* and *Buckingham Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 808 and *Islander Trucking Ltd v Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine) Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 826 and concluded that the cause of action could accrue and the plaintiff had suffered damage once he had acted upon the relevant advice to his detriment and failed to get that to which he was entitled. He was less well off than he would have been if the defendant had not been negligent.

Applying that to the instant case the plaintiffs paid their renewal premium without getting in return a binding contract of indemnity from the insurance company.

They had acted to their detri-

existed from the outset and in the absence of better evidence would have to be evaluated and assessed as a risk and damages awarded accordingly.

On the law as laid down by the House of Lords and the principles on which the Court of Appeal decisions were based, the first instance cases of *Iron Trade Mutual Insurance Co Ltd v Buchanan Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 808 and *Islander Trucking Ltd v Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine) Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 826 were correctly decided and on the facts of the instant case it had to be concluded that the second defendant's alleged negligence became actionable at the suit of the plaintiffs on about April 12, 1990 well outside the six-year limitation period.

The loss which the plaintiffs then suffered was the receipt of a purported cover which was not binding, a deficiency of which they were not aware. In return for the payment of the renewal premium, it had been necessary to do so the court could and should have put a monetary value upon that loss at that time.

It would exclude the possibility at that time of remedying the

Regina v Hackney London Borough Council, Ex parte K

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment October 30]

Section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 did not apply retrospectively and the coming into force of that Act was not a new circumstance which a housing authority could regard as a reasonable ground for reconsidering its earlier decision, under the Housing Act 1985, to provide accommodation to a homeless asylum seeker, who was in priority need and not intentionally homeless.

The Court of Appeal so held when granting a renewed application for leave to move for judicial review, and granting judicial review after a full hearing, of an

and Ms Gillian Carrington for the council.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that K had arrived in the United Kingdom in January 1996 and later applied for asylum. In May 1996 he applied to the council as the local housing authority, for accommodation. The council, having come to the conclusion after making the relevant inquiries that it owed him a duty under section 65(2) of Part III of the Housing Act 1985, provided him with accommodation.

The legal position changed as a consequence of the coming into force of section 9 of the 1996 Act which made certain categories of asylum seekers ineligible for benefits. The council took the view that the 1996 Act had removed its obligation to continue to house K and gave him notice to quit.

into effect of section 9 was a fresh circumstance which entitled the council to determine K's right to occupy the accommodation which had been provided and to reconsider the matter taking into account section 9 which made him no longer eligible for the benefits provided by section 65(2) of the 1985 Act.

His Lordship said that the important point in regard to the position under the 1985 Act was that the housing authority, having provided accommodation, was under a public law duty to allow a person in K's position to continue to occupy that accommodation or alternative accommodation unless it was reasonable for it to terminate that right to occupation.

In considering whether it was reasonable to terminate that right, it would be an error of law to take into account the effect of a

Act before the 1996 Act came into force, the council had decided K was eligible and that he was someone to whom it owed a duty. That situation could not be altered by the coming into force of the 1996 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment the council was not entitled to serve the notice to quit. It did not direct itself properly in determining to serve the notice. It took into account an inappropriate consideration, namely the fact that it thought section 9 of the 1996 Act applied to K when it did not. Accordingly, his right to occupation was not terminated lawfully.

In coming to that conclusion his Lordship disagreed with the decision of Mr Justice Carnwath in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Shelter* and another (1996) 1 All ER 826.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

Source: ∇ Excess capital distribution * Figures calculated: No significant data Companies in the constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

Rank	Program	Viewers (millions)	Change
7.89	Highway Hue	1.4	+
71.50	Hodder H'ness	202.4	+
24.20	Home Conats	1.40	+
181.40	ABC	40.5	+
37.50	News	2.1	+
822.90	Independent	22.2	+
5.08	Intercept	1.25	+
423.80	Johnson Press	21.1	+
16.90	Logic	3.1	+
305.00	60-M	20.7	+
118.50	Maidort	30.1	+
25.30	Midway	3.1	+
102.50	Midway	10.5	+

4,096.10	Newy, Lord Paul	267	- 14
3.59	Un Comandant	84	
5.58	Osprey Comand	19	
4,232.10	Pennant	7837	- 115
20.00	Pennant	411	
102.50	Pennant Sand	8374	+ 57
21.00	Quinn	1145	- 2
6,594.90	Road Int	5767	- 10
10,698.60	Roaders	632	- 13
433.60	Scot Mail	6773	+ 12
97.20	Scot Roads	7627	- 10
56.30	Shamrock	407	- 24
4.35	Sherry Kite	145	- 14
71.60	Sherry Kite	449	
6.76	Sherry Pub	147	- 14

641.90	Henny	242	-	4
136.00	Liberty	250	-	4
3,502.10	United News	707	-	16
78.50	VCR	202	-	2
2.34	VTR	76	-	4
142.80	Visual Action	285	-	
2,043.70	MAPP	277	-	12
79.90	Wilmington	112	-	3

896.30	Ang	Am	Coal	324 1/2	+ 16 1/2
5,323.80	Ang	Am		227 1/2	+ 18 1/2
603.40	Ang	Am	Gold	2500	+ 22 1/2
1,143.40	Anglo	Am	Ind	836 1/2	+ 5 1/2
15.40	Anglo	Pac	Res	18	
100.50	Arcon	Ind		35	+ 1
593.00	Astoria	Ind		53 1/2	+ 29 1/2
151.40	Astoria			54	+ 1
51.40	Austral			144	+ 6
275.90	Bacfin			233 1/2	
3,591.20	Bellmont			168	+ 4
3.31	Bellmont			31 1/2	
73.90	Borgmeyer			18 1/2	+ 1 1/2
297.60	Central Pacific			297	+ 1

598.00 Directories	3424	45%
9.50 Durban	1023	7%
34.30 E Rand Gold	964	5%
22.70 E Rand Prop	154	
144.80 Elizabeth	1494	5%
864.10 Eng Chas CH	261	6%
41.60 Exeter	1084	2%
339.90 FS Cars	2774	10%
7.57 FS Dist	34	7%
765.10 GFSA	7872	178%
336.30 Gwent	587	17%
12.40 Gold Fields Prop	1214	4%
20.10 Greenwicks R A	174	5%
28.30 Gwalia Cons	36	

33.30	Kidston	26.7+	
210.70	Kiwi	21.2+	20%
6.74	Manitowish	8.7+	
808.10	IBM	43.7+	3
2,495.00	Marineco	113.5+	25
13.10	Marshall	22.7+	3
6.21	Monticello	25.7+	3
956.60	Neenah	49.7+	4
1,125.70	Norfolk	156.9+	24
14.10	Packaging Corp.	70.7+	15
188.20	PSC	90.7+	12
228.00	RUB	167.7+	7
15.70	Rockwell	37.7+	1
52.70	Roadrunner	84.7+	11

31 24.8	30.60 Sigma
26.3	128.40 T & S Stewart
2.8 37.9	234.50 Tynes
	AT 302 Van Natta
	42.90 LARG
	WMA Lights & Smith
	7.347 70 Vennema
	6.16 WEN Group
	170.90 Widman
	105.50 Wiewehr

378.00	AEA Tooth
134.50	Alpha Astral
21.80	Alphazone

	134.00	BPP
	53.10	B&B
2.0 25.5	599.00	BTG
	10.60	Brooks Service
	2062.20	Bussanini Post
	889.42	CMG7
	488.70	CRT Gen
2.6 21.0	34.00	Card Gen
	644.40	Capita Group
	2.30	Capita

60	1 313.20	Dania Inc Sys
24 17.9	415.30	Davis Sorrento
	188.70	Delphi
50 11.6	97.90	Diagonal
3.0 8.4	34.00	Dodder-Jenkins
4.8 11.7	10.60	EW Fact
2.1 10.4	14.49	El Dora Pte
	216.70	FI Group
	1,026.60	Flint
14 13.5	158.90	Happy Robinson
5.1 10.8	376.10	JSA Hedgcs
	107.20	Johnson Clean
	29.00	Kalamazoo
44 11.0	68.20	Kewell Sys
3.1 15.0	5.53	Lazer Scan

3.7	14.7	62.70	Lowest
13.3	11.6	112.40	Lynn Hedges
11.7	10.7	85.50	MERS
8.8	9.2	77.50	DAUNT Camp
9.3	6.0	57.80	MR Groupy
4.2	15.3	67.00	Macro 4
6.4	8.7	38.50	Mentemine Focus
4.5		312.30	Micro Abacus
3.0	15.6	29.30	Microgen
11	29.8	1260.40	Alnyas
6.4	12.2	156.50	BATIE Go
4.0	7.9	28.00	NONE Group
5.8	19.7	34.80	Odas
2.7	16.5	97.60	PSD
4.7		8.96	Pacer Intellect 1

2.2	30.4	19.80	Proddost
2.8	16.4	18.60	KCD
12.7		40.50	HP's Group
4.8	12.2	8.12	Planc
5.9	11.5	21.20	Post Time
2.9	14.3	80.90	Rabes
		54.40	Reed Executive
		37.40	Reliance Sec
		6.516.20	Reusold Inc
		67.80	Ricardo Group
		97.60	Robert Walter
		29.90	Robt & Mohr
		78.10	Royalties
6.1	2.9	807.50	Sage Co
2.1	26.8	246.50	Salesmen (L)

5.3	19.0	306.80	Strain up
6.8	10.8	284.70	Shirts & McMan
		31.50	Strand ind
2.9	62.3	63.00	Simon Gp
3.6	22.7	43.00	Sketchy
1.7	42.6	104.10	Stallgroup
5.0	19.4	24.60	Stat-Finc
2.6	35.3	10.10	Superscope VN
5.4	14.6	26.70	Tone
1.4	22.9	5258.00	Tyca Inter
2.6	32.7	26.00	WSP Group
1.4	37.5	56.40	Worms Round
	43.8	727.60	Wzle Mgt Int
	52.0	128.20	Wzle Recov
1.1	51.6	77.20	Wzlestat

TELECOMMUNICATIONS	
66	148
53	72
56	219
30	164
	105
34	134
28	188
26	117
14	350
12	174
29	132
	188
51	281
12	94

TEXTILES & APPAREL	
2.6	2.09 Alben
4.7	41.40 Alexandra WY
..	111.70 Allied Text
0.9	267.50 Baid (Nim)
2.7	24.20 Bonitas-Endry
31	13.30 Br Mahal
16	47.90 Cusumont Gr
1.5	749.00 Coats Urylla

49	76	3.20	Unkle Hec
48	72.2	5.07	Drummond
35	38.8	3.86	Faucet
29	14.4	22.50	Flt
		1.17	Fosley (John)
5.8	135	6.50	Frisch
48	245	19.10	Haggart
31		21.40	Hartstone
4.3	19.6	29.00	Hickney Pitou
44	21.2	3.60	Holles
33	16.5	1.13	Honeyuckle
10		25.80	Hurace Small
23	..	6.55	Jacquie Vert

Dividend
for +40 pts
gold ring
3388
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of the £1,000
ice, Edgerton,

Price (p)	Qty (q)	Id %	P/E
51	-	4	7.7
50	-	3	3.9
100	+	11	5.2
126	+	17	11.7
119	-	1	7.1
24	-	-	11.7
76	-	1	3.7
18	-	1	82.9
26	-	1	8.4

37	-	4	86	122
38	-	4	71	
39	-	3		
40	-	3	170	263
41	-	4	4	79
42	-	1	124	80
43	-	4	74	103
44	-	4		134
45	-	1	94	74
46	-	3	99	61
47	-	3	4	160

555	- 17	0.2	
556	- 4	4.5	10.1
557	- 3	3.7	16.4
558	- 2	2.5	12.7
559	- 1	1.2	19.0
560	- 38	7.6	20.9
561	-		21.7
562	- 1	4.7	10.0
563	- 3	4.5	8.1
564	- 1	3.3	12.1
565	-	4.7	14.5
566	-		
567	- 17		
568	- 30	2.9	15.3
569	-	3.9	9.1
570	- 10	3.7	16.0

20		1.2	18.0
86	1	2.6	42.3
87	2		
87 1/2	11	3.9	14.9
88	6	6.8	17.5
88 1/2	11	2.6	13.2
89 1/2	26	5.6	17.7
89 1/2	3	4.4	19.5
89 1/2	2	5.1	18.4
89 1/2	1		
89 1/2	49	2.9	15.8
90		3.7	28.0
90 1/2	3	1.3	10.0
91 1/2	54	1.4	23.9
92	3	3.2	16.3

736	- 25	57	107
761		52	106
804	= 142	51	77
814		59	
822	+ 5	59	117
895	+ 41	54	100

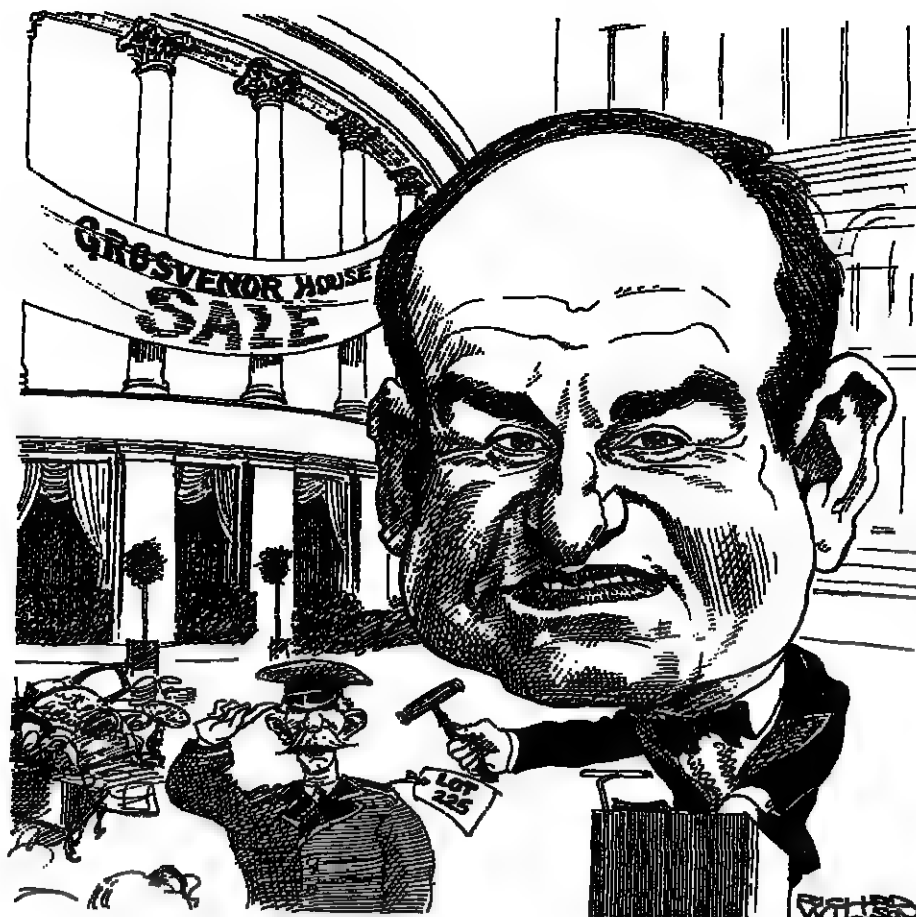
726	11	64	122
283	5	46	94
470	16	49	100

TV MARKET			
119	7	16	
186	2	19	148
187	1	21	18.6
25			

790	-	2	0.2
740 ₂	-	14	3.4
780	-		3.5
19%	-	2	15.5

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Granada set to shine at top end of forecasts



Charles Allen will be pressed for news of Granada disposals, such as Grosvenor House

GRANADA: The media and leisure group, has a habit of accompanying results with big deals — witness the hostile bid for Forte two years ago. This time, the City wants disposals news, but the message seems to be "Don't hold your breath".

The on-off sale of Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London, seems to have become bogged down at the negotiating table, and a solution to the Savoy conundrum seems as far off as ever. The only hope rests with the £80 million-plus French motorway services business, on which an announcement is rated an "outside chance" by industry observers.

Nevertheless, Gerry Robinson, the chairman, and Charles Allen, chief executive, will not disappoint. Thursday's full-year results are likely to be at the top end of analysts' £630 million to £650 million forecasts — up from £480 million — bolstered by strong results at Forte and a sturdy television advertising market. Television operations should also be boosted by the acquisition of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees in June. Granada is also expected to claim that the £100 million of profit improvement controversially promised during the Forte bid has been surpassed by at least 20 per

cent. The total dividend will rise from 13p to about 14.5p.

VODAFONE: The group is likely to consolidate its position as Britain's biggest mobile phone operator in half-year figures tomorrow. Estimates of pre-tax profits range from £280 million to £285 million, up from £235 million in last year's first half. The group earlier this year bought several service providers and it has wasted little time in restructuring them, for which a £20 million provision will be set aside this time. The strongest growth will be in international operations, with their new subscribers up significantly. The payout is likely to rise, in line with previous years, by 20 per cent, to 2.83p.

BRITISH STEEL: Half-year figures this morning will show the impact of a strong pound. Last year, the group made pre-tax profits of £262 million, but the outcome this time could be anything between £70 million and £120 million.

Sterling's strength will also have accelerated the redundancy programme. Brokers say that up to a quarter of the 40,000 workforce may be involved in the restructuring.

Currency drove profits down from a record £1.1 bil-

COMPANIES

lion to £451 million last year. NatWest Markets is looking for 585 million at half way. BZW forecasts £100 million.

Recent speculation has suggested a link-up soon with Preussag Stahl, the German steelmaker, and investment of a further £500 million in a new plant in Indonesia.

In spite of the profits collapse, the group has managed to peg its dividend at 10p. An unchanged interim 3p is forecast.

EMAP: With the succession now settled, the City can concentrate on Emap's interim figures, out today. These are expected to be encouraging, with NatWest Markets, predicting a jump in pre-tax profits to £62.8 million, from £50.6 million. This is in spite of the poorly economy in France — where Emap is the second-largest magazine publisher and the intended chief executive, Kevin Hand, runs things. Consumer publishing is also exciting, with *FM*, the men's monthly, leaving the likes of *Q* and *Loaded* in its wake. The outgoing chief executive, Robin Miller, will be questioned about Emap's stance on IPC, the consumer publisher

put up for sale by Reed Elsevier for £800 million. Emap is unlikely to say much more than it already has, and the feeling is that others may be able to offer more for IPC.

SAFWAY: Brokers expect disappointing half-year results on Wednesday.

Mike Dennis, of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, says that it is almost as if the group has primed the City to expect a dull set of figures. He is looking for pre-tax profits of £235 million, against £230 million.

Sales growth will have been flat and the chances are that the group may have continued to lose market share to J Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda.

Brokers will no doubt want an indication of how Safeway intends to get sales lines moving if a better performance is expected for the second half. However, against last year's dull post-Christmas backdrop, improvement should not be too hard. After the breakdown of merger talks with Asda, Safeway will no doubt be required to outline its strategy. The payout should grow by 5 per cent, to 4.6p.

STOREHOUSE: The annual meeting earlier this year was reasonably encouraging on sales growth, but this will have altered after dull trading conditions in August and September. Nick Bubb, of SocGen, says that October was better, but that it is unlikely to have let the group make up all the lost ground. He forecasts £39 million interim pre-tax profits on Thursday, midway in a market range of £38 million to £40 million. Last year, the group made £37.5 million. Headline sales growth should,

at first sight, appear impressive, but, after a contribution from the Children's World acquisition is stripped out, the overall performance will leave much to be desired.

Bhs and Mothercare continue to struggle. Mr Bubb says that the market positioning of Bhs continues to cause concern, and Mothercare is losing its share of a flat market.

The interim dividend should grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

UNIGATE: A solid performance is expected in results today. The all-important dairy division will have seen a recovery in margins on last year, and the expanded pig-meat processing activities should make a useful contribution.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, forecasts pre-tax profits of about £67 million, up from £60.6 million. The Wincanton transport division is back on track, with new contracts. Steadier pricing in retailing and manufacturing should limit damage to the profit and loss account.

The payout should rise 6 per cent, to 7.4p.

NORTHERN FOODS: Henderson Crosthwaite expects pre-tax profits tomorrow up from £57.8 million to £68 million. The market range is between £64 million and £69 million. Henderson says the dairy side should be £5 million up, at £27 million, with lower milk costs boosting doorstep margins. Paribas says the real benefit of the penny put on a pint earlier this year is unlikely to be felt till the second half. The payout will rise almost 6 per cent, to 3.8p.

MICHAEL CLARK

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Two clues awaited on interest rates

TWO key British statistical releases will this week give further clues on prospects for interest rates in the months ahead. Last week's Bank of England *Inflation Report* left the question of whether rates have now peaked ambiguous but ominously said that the Monetary Policy Committee was not "in a pause" in the process of monetary tightening.

With continuing strong growth in consumer demand and money supply cited as two of the main reasons behind the recent rise in base rates, this week's figures for retail sales and money supply are key. October's retail sales figures are published on Wednesday. According to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, sales are expected to have risen 1.8 per cent, giving year-on-year growth of 5.1 per cent, compared with a drop in sales volumes in September of 1.9 per cent and a year-on-year rate of 3.4 per cent.

October figures for M4 money supply are published on Thursday and are expected to show growth in broad money of 0.5 per cent. This would mean the annual rate of growth dipping somewhat to 11.2 per cent from 11.8 per cent in September but this rate is still far too high for comfort within the MPC. The Bank said last week that "money growth must slow if the inflation target is to be met".

Also published in Britain this week are October figures for the public sector borrowing requirement as well as the latest monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry. The latter will be keenly watched for signs of any impact of sterling's appreciation on export volumes and orders.

JANET BUSH

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: British Steel, Emap, First Bus, Lyons Irish Holdings, 800 Group, TBI, Unigate, Whitbread, Workspace Group, Finlake, Grantchester Holdings, Economic statistics: US October industrial production.

TOMORROW

Interims: Adam & Harvey, Chamberlain & Hill, James Cropper, De La Rue, Enterprise Inns, Gail Thomson Environmental, Great Portland Estates, Marshalls, Merchant Retail Group, Northern Foods, Rabus Group, Vodafone Group, Vesper Thymecroft, Finlake: BOC, Glasgow Income Trust, Economic statistics: UK October PSBR, Bank of England to give details of November 26 gift auction.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Black Arrow Group, Courtauld, Dewar International, European Colour, European Motor Holdings, F&L, Ful Bank, Hydrex Land Securities, Ionica, Meyer International, Robert Westman, Safeway, Southnews, Finlake: Century Inns, Ferraris Group, Economic statistics: UK October retail sales, CBI Council press conference, US October housing starts.

THURSDAY

Interims: Baring Stratton Investment, (3), Bradford Property Trust, Chorley Group, City of London PH Group, Glenmore, Hill Hing Lambert Fenchurch Group, EDAF Man, Powell Duffryn, PowerGen, Stanhouse, Shires Income, Vocelle Group, York Waterworks, Finlake: Fibernet Group, Granada, Tomkinson, Twesford United Collieries, Economic statistics: UK October car production, UK Q3 provisional GDP, Building Societies Association October lending, CBI November industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: Osborne & Little, Wei Kwong Shipping.

SUNDAY TIPS

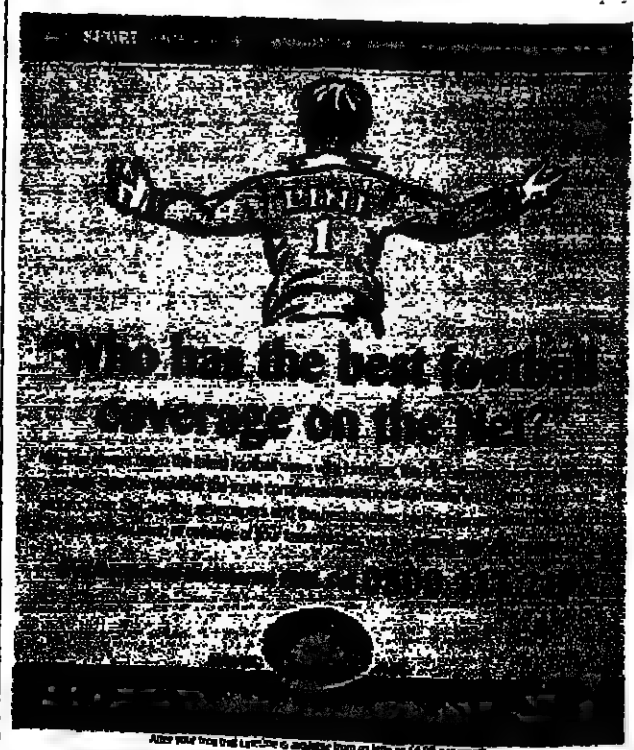
The Sunday Times: Buy British Steel, Mayflower, Signet, Workspace; Sell Manchester United. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Capital Radio, Five Oaks Investment, Sell Loftus Road, DCC; Hold Videologic. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Abacus Recruitment, Gibbon Group; Sell Lloyds TSB, The Observer; Buy Safeway; Sell JKC. The Express on Sunday: Buy Ryland, BPP Holdings; Hold BT.



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TWA



CORPORATE PROFILE: Rio Tinto

FACTS

Turnover (1996): \$8.4 billion
Pre-tax profit: \$1.7 billion
Employees: 51,000
Overview: The world's biggest mining group. Operations span aluminium, borates, coal, copper, gold, iron ore and titanium dioxide. Anglo-Australian structure reflects combination of RTZ and CRA, which merged in December 1995 and changed name to Rio Tinto in June 1997. Shares hit hard by Asian currency turmoil and plunging copper price. Planning horizons span 20 years or more. Quotes in US dollars.

THE BOARD

Robert (Bob) Wilson, formerly chief executive of RTZ-CRA, and executive chairman of the combined group since January 1997, succeeding Sir Derek Birkin. An economist by training, Wilson joined RTZ in 1970 at the age of 26, and has held a wide variety of positions within the company. Aged 54.

Wilson's main cohorts include Leon Davis, chief executive, representing the CRA camp, and Chris Bull, group finance director. Davis joined CRA from school in 1958 as a metallurgical cadet and has worked in Papua New Guinea, and elsewhere in Asia.

Non-executive directors: Raymond Seltz, the former American Ambassador to the United Kingdom, who is also on the board of British Airways.

Richard Glendon, American-born chairman of BG and Centrica, who holds non-executive positions with Grand Metropolitan and Lucas Industries.

The Australian contingent includes John Uhrig, former chairman of CRA, and chairman of Westpac, and Gary Pemberton, another well-connected businessman, who is chairman of Qantas, and heres known Seltz via the BA connection.

Sir Martin Jacobson, chairman of the audit committee, is former chairman of BZW, and chairman of the British Council and Prudential Corporation. He also sits on the board of Marks & Spencer.

Newcomers include Sir Richard Sykes, chairman and chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, and Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National and Blue Circle Industries. They were appointed in August, in part replacing Lord Sloom of Highbury, latterly chairman of BP, who relinquished his directorships on his appointment as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.

For a company that earns its crust blasting great chunks out of the earth, Rio Tinto has endured an appropriately seismic year. Recent months have brought changes of name, industrial disputes, and a sudden fall in the share price.

The board, led by Bob Wilson and Leon Davis, has persevered with reorganising a group that is still fundamentally two companies, one with a power base in St James's Square, London; the other in Melbourne.

To many, the world's biggest mining group will always be RTZ, but Rio Tinto is the more appropriate name. It combines the common features of two mining companies that have been linked for years — The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation and Conzinc Riontinto of Australia.

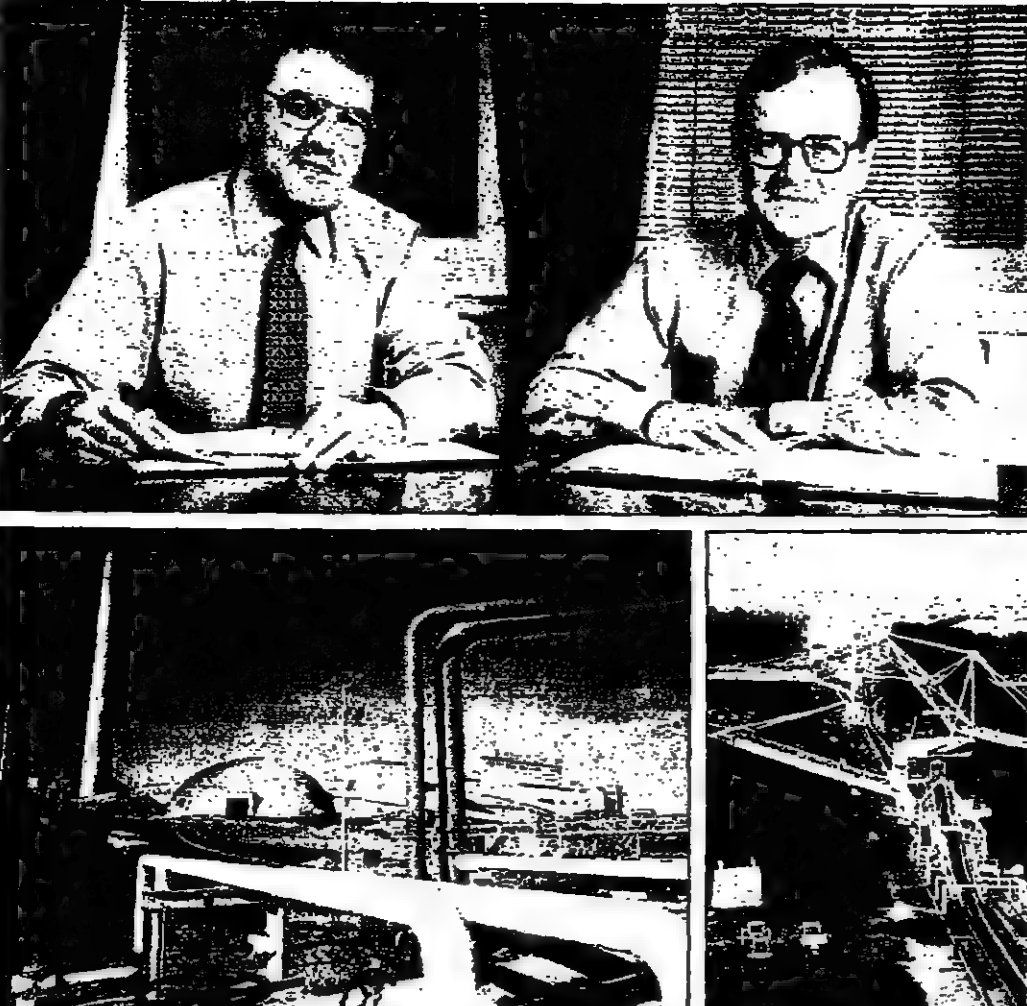
If 1996 consolidated the merger of RTZ-CRA, then 1997 was the year in which to polish this rough outfit into an altogether more alluring gem.

To enthusiasts, Rio Tinto conjures up a Boy's Own world, filled with mile-long trains and vast open-pit mines — among the biggest man-made workings anywhere. At Grasberg in Irian Jaya in Indonesia, engineers are peeling back the top of a 14,000 ft mountain, contending with hostile atmospheric conditions, including cloud and torrential rain. Tailings laced with copper, gold and silver are channelled to a mill at 9,000 ft and hence by pipeline to the coast ready to be shipped out.

At Diavik in Canada's North-West Territories, engineers are probing one of the world's most exciting new diamond discoveries, secreted beneath a frozen lake. In between are huge open-pit workings in America, Chile and Australia and controversial sand-dune excavations near Lake St Lucia in South Africa.

The environmental protesters who stand outside Rio Tinto's London head office chanting "Rio Tinto sinks" and other slogans clearly have a less romantic slant on things. To them, the exploitation of exhaustible natural resources is indefensible, whatever the steps taken to paper over the cracks. Questions are raised about the impact on local communities, both financially, and in terms of their health and wellbeing.

It is hardly surprising that Rio Tinto devotes considerable resources to the ethical/environmental question. The company is soon to publish a code of business practice, two years in the making, which spells out company policy on



Mine giant clockwise, Leon Davis, chief executive, left, and Bob Wilson, chairman, who are working to integrate Rio Tinto operations worldwide. Iron ore being taken to the port of Dampier; stackers and shiploaders at the port of Tanjung Bara; and the copper smelter at Bingham Canyon

community relations, corporate governance and other sensitive topics.

The RTZ Corporation plc and CRA Ltd came together in December 1995 in a dual-listed companies structure, trading in London and Sydney. After 18 months of consolidation, they adopted a common name, while remaining separate legal entities with separate share listings.

Management structure was reorganised, in March, into six product groups, aimed at reducing bureaucracy and shortening lines of communication. Three are based in Australia — Comalco (aluminium) in Brisbane; energy in Melbourne (the long-standing CRA base); and iron ore in Perth.

Other operations, including copper and gold, are driven from London, together with technology and exploration. Key managers have been uprooted and transplanted to new posts around the world. The leaner structure is already generating cost savings of up

to \$200 million a year — five times the original forecasts.

Rio Tinto inclines to the long term for everything, from share price performance to future returns. Its core strategy is to concentrate on the development of large, long-life mines capable of delivering superior returns to shareholders over many years.

The company has endured a difficult financial run recently, pegging its interim dividend, then seeing its shares fall off a cliff on the back of the financial crisis in South-East Asia.

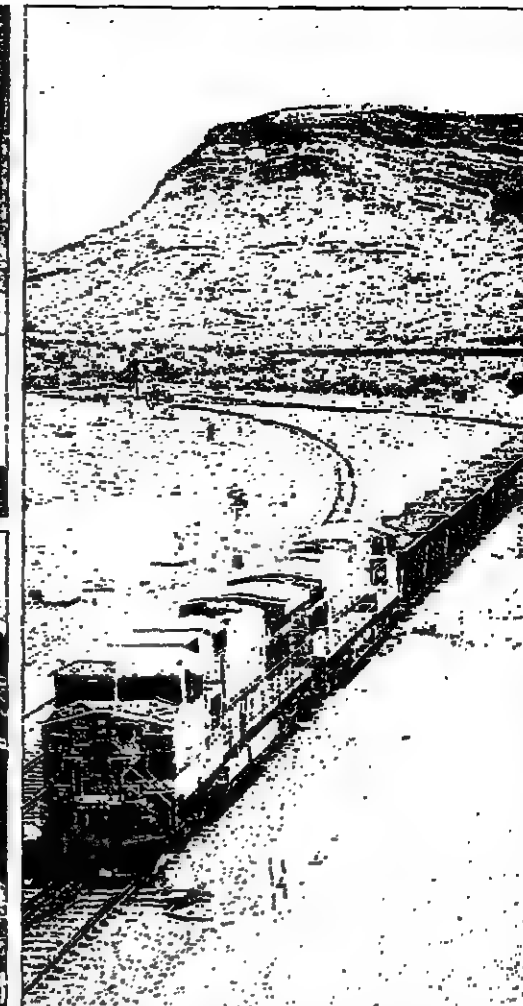
The shares have fallen by more than a quarter since June, when they peaked at 1,109p. They closed at 755p on Friday.

It has yet to be seen whether the Asian turmoil will generate

a tidal wave, triggering recession in South Korea, Japan, China, and, ultimately, the West, or a ripple, intensifying local economic pressures.

America, Rio Tinto's most important market, has enjoyed extraordinarily high growth for years, and this is expected to continue, even if at a lesser rate. Economic recovery is expected to accelerate in Western Europe, the next most important bloc, while significant growth is expected in China, fuelled by huge infrastructure projects.

North America and Australia are the most important contributors to earnings, followed by South America, Africa and Indonesia. Technical and operational problems seen in 1996 have been largely ironed out, although Australian coal remains problematic. Rio Tinto is locked in an old-fashioned battle with the unions over operations in the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, and is in for a long fight. Low productivity and high



Iron ore being taken to the port of Dampier; stackers and shiploaders at the port of Tanjung Bara; and the copper smelter at Bingham Canyon

group that operates Grasberg. It is expected to develop into the world's biggest copper mine, overtaking Escondido in Chile, in which Rio Tinto has a 30 per cent interest.

Operations in Papua New Guinea include Lihir Gold and Bougainville Copper — the latter abandoned in 1989 in the face of hit-and-run attacks by warring locals.

South African interests include the Palabora copper mine (39 per cent owned) and Richards Bay Minerals (50 per cent owned with Billiton), which mines heavy mineral sands on the coast of KwaZulu/Natal.

Rio Tinto has a range of publications describing its role as a "good corporate citizen". It has carried out a series of environmental audits, but its stated corporate values, according to Integrity Works, our independent analysts, are limited to mutual respect, active partnership and long-term commitment. It further believes in transparency and trust.

Ethical expression owes much to a basic stakeholder approach, including a heavy emphasis on community relations. This makes the company appear somewhat disjointed, compared with best practice, but a reference to human rights in the new code of business practice will put it in the vanguard of corporate ethics statements.

The company comes off badly in the "fat cat" league compiled by Crisp Consulting, which calculates that Mr Wilson was 42 per cent overpaid in 1996, with emoluments of £1.27 million. The Crisp model suggests that £730,336 would have been more in keeping with the company's generally poor performance over the period.

The average pay of the (then) nine non-executive directors was also deemed excessive: amounting to 56 per cent more than the average pay of the non-executive directors for all FTSE 100 companies.

JON ASHWORTH

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The general strategy has not really changed in the last seven years: to secure long-term quality assets across a spread of commodities in a broad spread of countries. Metal markets worldwide are so finely balanced that if you get only a small shift in outlook, as in the Asian currency crisis, it does lead to pressure for lower prices." — *Clyde Lewis, HSBC James Capel*

"Investors have probably overreacted to this Asian situation. The perception going forward is, let's wait for the dust to settle and look at the whole thing again in the new year." — *Peter Davey, Société Générale*

"Increasingly profit growth is being driven by the group's investment programme, with significant additional volumes over the next two to three years as new projects come on-stream." — *Andrew Hallis, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson*

Gooch & Housego eyes AIM

GOOCH & HOUSEGO, a maker of precision optical components, is coming to the Alternative Investment Market, in a flotation that will make a millionaire of its 80-year-old chairman (Jon Ashworth writes).

Archie Gooch, who founded the company with Leslie Housego in a loft in 1946, will hold shares worth £2.8 million. Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance is adviser to the deal, which will raise £6 million for Gooch & Housego, and value the company at about £17 million. Funds will in part finance a new factory in Orlando, Florida.

Gooch & Housego made a pre-tax profit of £14.3 million (£10.6 million) in the year to September 30, on sales of £6.71 million (£5.95 million).

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THE PERSONAL NUMBER

Zambian copper industry set for boost from CDC

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LUSAKA

THE Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), the UK's development finance institution, is taking a significant stake in the Zambian copper industry, providing a lift to Zambia's struggling copper industry.

The CDC, at the centre of confusion over plans for its privatisation, is part of a consortium of mining companies including Anglo American, Phelps Dodge of America, The deal, involving the Nkana and Nchanga mines, is the biggest in Zambia's slow-moving privatisation programme. The mines account for about half of Zambia's copper output.

Analysts suggest that the sale price agreed with Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) is in the region of \$250 million (£156 million) cash, with an initial commitment to spend \$300 million to \$400 million with a view to doubling production.

Industry sources said last month that the Zambian Government wanted \$300 million for the two mines, but the consortium had offered \$220

million with an additional commitment to spend \$1 billion in Zambia — \$750 million on capital expenditure and \$250 million on debt assumption and social development.

Zambia's copper industry has been in steady decline since 1969, when it ranked as the world's fourth-biggest producer. The sale, coupled with long-term mine development projects and exploration, could revive the industry, which earns 90 per cent of the country's foreign exchange.

ZCCM is saddled with debts in the region of \$800 million, including at least \$200 million in short-term liabilities to suppliers. Concern has also been expressed about the implications of government interference in the privatisation process and corrupt practices surrounding some of the deals.

New investors face the threat of industrial action at mines. Zambia faces instability after last month's attempted coup, in which a group of drunken soldiers briefly tried to take over the country before they were arrested and detained.

AMP vote on flotation this week

BY MARIANNE CURPHY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO MILLION members of Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) will vote this week on the life insurer's plans to demutualise and float on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets.

Thousands of UK members of AMP have voted by post. If the plans are approved, up to 200,000 qualifying customers resident in the UK will receive an estimated windfall of £2,500 on flotation next May.

Australian members are being asked to vote on proposals to turn AMP into one of the ten largest listed companies in Australia at a meeting at a concert hall in Darling Harbour, Sydney, on Thursday.

Only UK residents who hold qualifying policies with AMP UK and London Life, which merged with AMP in 1989, will benefit from windfall shares. Members of Pearl, which is owned by AMP, will not receive shares because Pearl is a proprietary company.

At a similar general meeting before AMP's merger with London Life in 1989, so many turned up to vote at the Barbican in London that the meeting had to be reconvened in the Café Royal.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

RIEUSSEC

(a) Chateau Rieussec produces one of the great sweet Sauternes. Its grapes are mainly Semillon, some Sauvignon Blanc and a trace of Muscadelle. The character of the wine is formed by the mould Botrytis Cinerea. The chateau sits on a hill, one mile from Yquem. It has been owned by the Rothschild family since 1984.

JOY GEAR

(b) The valve gear on a locomotive controls the admission and exhaust of steam to and from the cylinders. One model, the "Joy" gear, is of the radial type and operates with no eccentrics. The valve rod is directly worked through a coupling rod or link from the connecting rod.

HENDERSON CYRO

(c) A gunnery device. By means of a gyroscope and an internal prism it stabilises the line of sight and enables the gun director to keep on target despite the rolling of the ship. He is thus able to fire as soon as the "gun ready" lamp lights.

CACCIA

(d) An early (14th-century) Italian musical and poetic form. It consists of a two-part canon with the second part (ie, parts of a round) "chasing" the first. Caccia means a chase or hunt in Italian. The verse form is a poem of short lines with a refrain but no rhyme. It may have evolved from the madrigal. The name suggests that at some stage the subjects of the caccia were connected with hunting.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... N4d1 2.Qxg6 Nc2 3.Kf1 Nc1 and Black wins material due to the threat of ... Rd1 mate.

REWARDING TIMES

PLAY £200,000 PORTFOLIO

£1,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 45

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £1,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £2,000. Better still, there is a £5,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid.
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 45).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 45 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).

● If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 45, you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £5,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3355 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

PORTFOLIO RULES

1 The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio is free. Purchase of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* is not a condition of taking part. 2 *Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Times* Equity Prices page. The *Sunday Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Sunday Times* Equity Prices page. Readers' calculations should be based on whole numbers only. Where a fraction appears the figure should be rounded down to make a whole number e.g. 4½ equals 4. 3 The companies comprising the list will change from day to day. This list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomly distributed groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers. 4 The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* "dividend" will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in prices (ie, the largest increase or

lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares) of the 44 shares which on any one day comprises *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list. 4 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Sunday in *The Sunday Times*. 5 The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Cards are freely available at *Times Newspapers* Ltd offices or you can call the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. 6 If the overall prize movement of more than one combination of shares equals the dividend the prize will be equally divided among the claimants holding those combinations of shares. If the prize is unclaimed it will be added to the following day's prize for the day game or the next week's prize for the accumulator. There is a limited prize pool and in the event of there being more winners than prizes available in the prize pool, *Times Newspapers* Ltd reserve the right to

distribute the available prize by a random draw. 7 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Portfolio card that is delayed, tampered with or incorrectly printed in any way will be declared void. 8 Employees of *Times Newspapers* Ltd and its subsidiaries and of *European Group Limited* (publishers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Portfolio. 9 All participants will be subject to these rules. All instructions on How to Play and How to Claim whether published in *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* or on Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these rules. The Editor reserves the right to amend the Rules. Any amendments will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. 10 In any dispute the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 11 If for any reason *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* pages are not published in the normal way Portfolio will be suspended for the day. 12 Persons under the age of 18 are ineligible to play. 13 Winners MUST agree to publication of their names and/or photograph in *The Times* and/or *The Sunday Times*.

Labour repaying debt, — whatever next?

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ing debt
next?

Moyne pressed over £49m switch of Trustor funds

By Jon Ashworth

LORD MOYNE, the former Jonathan Guinness, is facing increasing pressure to explain his role in the transfer of £49 million in funds from Trustor, the Swedish investment company of which he is chairman.

Police in Stockholm have arrested two men in connection with alleged misuse of company funds, which saw the money transferred to a Barclays Bank account in London under Lord Moyne's control. The money was in turn dispersed among at least ten offshore bank accounts.

Lord Moyne has refused to elaborate on a statement issued ten days ago, in which he said that he had been led down by Swedish associates. He said that the location of all Trustor funds had been established, but declined to comment on his precise role in the transactions. His associate, Lindsay Smallbone, has declined daily requests for comment.

headquarters in Berkeley Square, London.

Swedish detectives, working with the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) in London, visited a branch of Barclays Bank last week, and are understood to have traced the flow of funds from Sweden to London, and beyond. They will now consider whether there is a second layer of transactions to be considered.

Some £32 million has been traced via Gibraltar to a Trustor account in Luxembourg. It is thought that the money may be security for a back-up loan, possibly made to facilitate the purchase of Trustor shares.

Lord Moyne paid £20 million in June for a 52 per cent stake in Trustor. He intends to sell the stake and resign as chairman in the light of recent developments.

The SFO can assist the Swedes by demanding documents and interviewing witnesses. Lord Moyne and Mr Smallbone are co-signatories on the Barclays account through which Trustor funds were channelled. Other possible witnesses include Michael Wynne-Parker, who introduced Lord Moyne to Peter Mattsson, one of those arrested, and Joachim Fosener, a convicted fraudster who shared offices with Guinness Management.

Mr Wynne-Parker and Lord Moyne were directors of Access to Justice, which was wound up in September on the petition of the Department of Trade and Industry.



Guinness Management base



Jerry Brand, who built up Russell & Brand, will today open his first Orange Balloon restaurant in Tonbridge

Caterer orders up new restaurants

A CATERING entrepreneur who sold his business to Marriott, the US hotel group, for £15.8 million last year is to develop a restaurant chain with Brian Turner, the TV chef (Dominic Walsh writes).

Jerry Brand, who built Rus-

sell & Brand into one of the leading staff caterers, will today open his first Orange Balloon restaurant in Tonbridge, Kent. He aims for a dozen by the end of next year.

Mr Brand said the concept would offer brasserie-style

food during the day and fine dining in the evening. The second Orange Balloon opens next month in Twickenham. The 160-seat Tonbridge restaurant cost £490,000 to set up. To finance the initial development, Mr Brand has

put up £2 million and Royal Bank of Scotland debt funding of £2 million.

Mr Turner, chief proprietor of Turners restaurant in London, has an option to acquire a stake in Mr Brand's company, Jebeor Trading.

P&O quiet on merger approval

P&O, the ferries operator, and the Government are playing down a weekend report that the long-delayed merger between the company and Stena, the Swedish operator, might be within days of getting the green light from the regulatory authorities.

The Department of Trade and Industry dismissed as "pure speculation" a suggestion that a decision by the DTI and the European Commission is imminent, and that Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, would approve the merger subject to various conditions, including price restraints.

A P&O spokesman said the company was not aware of any imminent announcement.

EMU doubt

Britain will not meet the Treasury's five economic tests for joining the single European currency for the "foreseeable future", according to the Institute of Directors, which has consistently argued against membership of the euro. The Treasury's own analysis of the tests concluded that, on balance, Britain was not likely to meet them for the lifetime of this Parliament and therefore ruled out joining EMU during this period.

CBI post

The Confederation of British Industry has appointed the head of the Engineering Employers Federation to chair its new Trade Association Council. Graham Mackenzie will head the 40-strong council, which will represent the 200-plus trade associations that are CBI members and will meet four times a year.

Share service

ShareLink, the retail broker, is today launching Britain's first entirely touch-tone share-dealing service, allowing clients to buy and sell shares on the telephone without having to talk to a human operator. Touch-Tone Trader, which went through its final tests at the weekend, will offer clients 24-hour dealing.

EU warned

The European Union must examine ways of reducing its overall tax burdens and promoting private pensions if it is to successfully tackle high unemployment, according to a new study under the auspices of the Federal Trust, the independent think-tank.

Argent plans 45,000-seat stadium with Coventry

By Jason Nisse

COVENTRY CITY, the Premiership football club, which avoided relegation on the last day of last season, aims to develop a new 45,000-seat stadium in an 80 million joint venture with Argent, the property group.

The club intends next month to seek planning consent for the scheme, which includes a stadium with retractable roof, a hotel and a retail park. The intended site is a former gasworks at Rixhill, on the outskirts of Coventry, near the M6, the M1 and the M40 and next to the West Coast railway line. It was bought from BG, the gas pipeline group, for just £1 million.

The old stadium, at Highfield Road, near the centre of Coventry, is expected to be sold for housing development.

Bryan Richardson, chairman of Coventry City, said that once the development is under way, it is likely that the club will be floated. "We need more than just the income from football to justify a market listing," he said.

Derek Higgs, chairman of Prudential Portfolio Managers, is a director of the club, as was Geoffrey Robinson, before he joined the Government as Paymaster General.

The stadium is expected to cost £45 million to build and at

least £15 million to fit out. It will have 40,000 seats for football matches and will be able to be transformed, in less than three hours, into a 45,000-seat indoor venue for rock concerts and other events. It will have parking for 7,000 cars and 300 coaches.

"We intend to position ourselves as the national indoor arena," Mr Richardson said. "Seventy per cent of the country's population is within 90 minutes' drive."

The project is being funded largely through government grants, Coventry's own resources and investment by Argent.

Plea to aid bankless Britons

TACKLING the "financial exclusion" of the nine million Britons without bank accounts should be the priority of the Government's new Social Exclusion Unit, according to a progressive think-tank (Martin Waller writes).

The New Policy Institute says that one in five of Britain's adult population does not

have a bank or building society account, and at least four million people rank too low in credit-scoring to gain access to conventional sources of credit.

Their only alternative to illegal loan sharks may be specialist lenders that can charge 300 per cent in annual interest. This financial exclusion will only get worse as a result

of building societies turning into banks, says the institute.

Poor parts of Britain are becoming financial deserts, says Peter Kenway, a director of the institute, as building societies and banks shut branches. He wants banks to be required to offer services to poorer communities and do a "social audit" before closing branches.

Lewis waits for Rascal's reply on bid

By Raymond Snoddy
MEDIA EDITOR

DUNCAN LEWIS, the former chief executive of Granada Media, hopes to hear this week whether Rascal, the defence electronics group, would be willing to sell its loss-making data products division in addition to Rascal Telecoms.

Mr Lewis and a group of unnamed executives backed by Schroder Ventures put in a bid of about £400 million for Rascal's telecommunications business, which includes the provision of secure communications for the National Lottery, six weeks ago. He has heard nothing other than a suggestion that they might like to increase their offer by £100 million, a suggestion that the Lewis consortium declined.

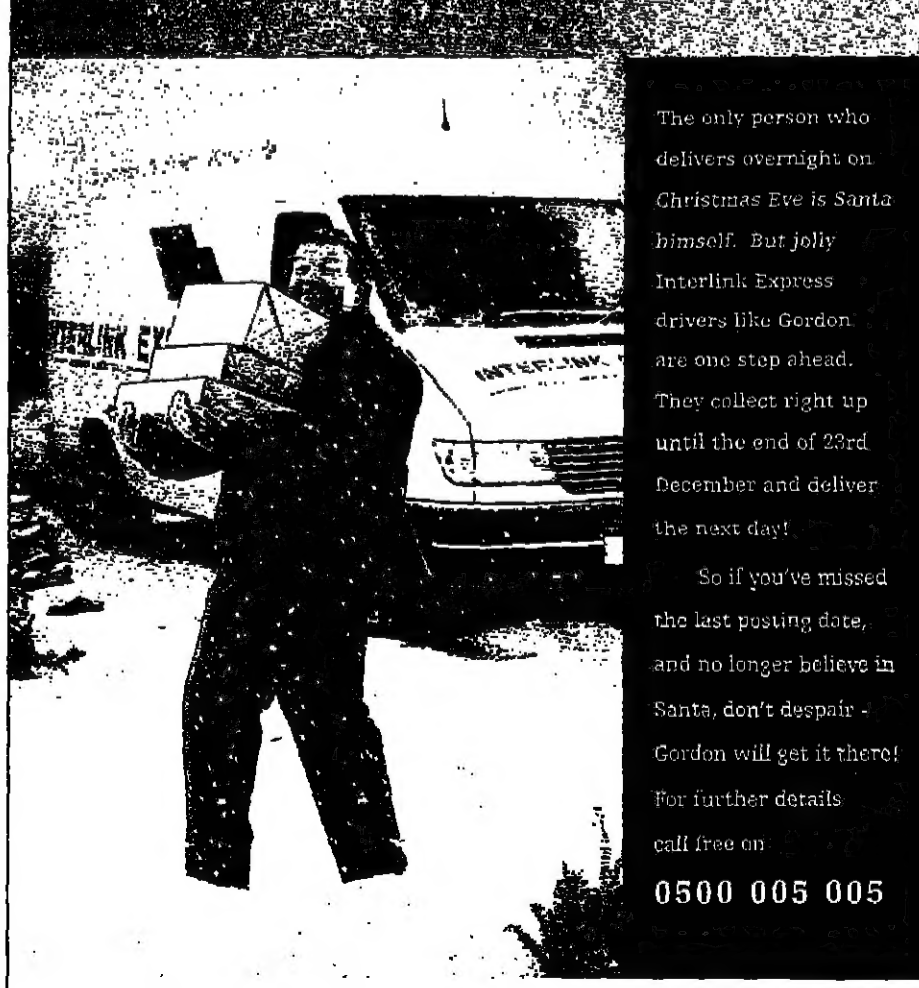
Last week Mr Lewis, a former head of Mercury Communications, suggested to Rascal that the buy-in group might also be prepared to buy the data products division, but he has had no response. Until Rascal's attitude to the proposal is known, there are no plans to make a higher bid encompassing both the data and the telecommunications businesses.

It is thought that Mr Lewis and his group are in the dark about Rascal's intentions or how serious the interest is from a rival to buy Rascal Telecoms, Scottish Power.

The Lewis group might even be interested in making an offer for all of Rascal. However, this would only be feasible if a defence company was willing to buy the defence businesses as part of the deal.

Mr Lewis has been offered senior jobs in telecommunications in the 11 months since he left Granada, but would prefer to buy a smaller company.

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High	Low	(millions)	per share	+	%	High	Low	(millions)	per share	+	%	P/E
1200	1000	13.50	112	112	6.1	170	150	35.50	100	-25		
1250	1050	14.00	115	115	6.1	175	155	36.00	105	-25		
1300	1100	14.50	118	118	6.1	180	160	36.50	110	-25		
1350	1150	15.00	121	121	6.1	185	165	37.00	115	-25		
1400	1200	15.50	124	124	6.1	190	170	37.50	120	-25		
1450	1250	16.00	127	127	6.1	195	175	38.00	125	-25		
1500	1300	16.50	130	130	6.1	200	180	38.50	130	-25		
1550	1350	17.00	133	133	6.1	205	185	39.00	135	-25		
1600	1400	17.50	136	136	6.1	210	190	39.50	140	-25		
1650	1450	18.00	139	139	6.1	215	195	40.00	145	-25		
1700	1500	18.50	142	142	6.1	220	200	40.50	150	-25		
1750	1550	19.00	145	145	6.1	225	205	41.00	155	-25		
1800	1600	19.50	148	148	6.1	230	210	41.50	160	-25		
1850	1650	20.00	151	151	6.1	235	215	42.00	165	-25		
1900	1700	20.50	154	154	6.1	240	220	42.50	170	-25		
1950	1750	21.00	157	157	6.1	245	225	43.00	175	-25		
2000	1800	21.50	160	160	6.1	250	230	43.50	180	-25		
2050	1850	22.00	163	163	6.1	255	235	44.00	185	-25		
2100	1900	22.50	166	166	6.1	260	240	44.50	190	-25		
2150	1950	23.00	169	169	6.1	265	245	45.00	195	-25		
2200	2000	23.50	172	172	6.1	270	250	45.50	200	-25		
2250	2050	24.00	175	175	6.1	275	255	46.00	205	-25		
2300	2100	24.50	178	178	6.1	280	260	46.50	210	-25		
2350	2150	25.00	181	181	6.1	285	265	47.00	215	-25		
2400	2200	25.50	184	184	6.1	290	270	47.50	220	-25		
2450	2250	26.00	187	187	6.1	295	275	48.00	225	-25		
2500	2300	26.50	190	190	6.1	300	280	48.50	230	-25		
2550	2350	27.00	193	193	6.1	305	285	49.00	235	-25		
2600	2400	27.50	196	196	6.1	310	290	49.50	240	-25		
2650	2450	28.00	199	199	6.1	315	295	50.00	245	-25		
2700	2500	28.50	202	202	6.1	320	300	50.50	250	-25		
2750	2550	29.00	205	205	6.1	325	305	51.00	255	-25		
2800	2600	29.50	208	208	6.1	330	310	51.50	260	-25		
2850	2650	30.00	211	211	6.1	335	315	52.00	265	-25		
2900	2700	30.50	214	214	6.1	340	320	52.50	270	-25		
2950	2750	31.00	217	217	6.1	345	325	53.00	275	-25		
3000	2800	31.50	220	220	6.1	350	330	53.50	280	-25		
3050	2850	32.00	223	223	6.1	355	335	54.00	285	-25		
3100	2900	32.50	226	226	6.1	360	340	54.50	290	-25		
3150	2950	33.00	229	229	6.1	365	345	55.00	295	-25		
3200	3000	33.50	232	232	6.1	370	350	55.50	300	-25		
3250	3050	34.00	235	235	6.1	375	355	56.00	305	-25		
3300	3100	34.50	238	238	6.1	380	360	56.50	310	-25		
3350	3150	35.00	241	241	6.1	385	365	57.00	315	-25		
3400	3200	35.50	244	244	6.1	390	370	57.50	320	-25		
3450	3250	36.00	247	247	6.1	395	375	58.00	325	-25		
3500	3300	36.50	250	250	6.1	400	380	58.50	330	-25		
3550	3350	37.00	253	253	6.1	405	385	59.00	335	-25		
3600	3400	37.50	256	256	6.1	410	390	59.50	340	-25		
3650	3450	38.00	259	259	6.1	415	395	60.00	345	-25		
3700	3500	38.50	262	262	6.1	420	400	60.50	350	-25		
3750	3550	39.00	265	265	6.1	425	405	61.00	355	-25		
3800	3600	39.50	268	268	6.1	430	410	61.50	360	-25		
3850	3650	40.00	271	271	6.1	435	415	62.00	365	-25		
3900	3700	40.50	274	274	6.1	440	420	62.50	370	-25		
3950	3750	41.00	277	277	6.1	445	425	63.00	375	-25		
4000	3800	41.50	280	280	6.1	450	430	63.50	380	-25		
4050	3850	42.00	283	283	6.1	455	435	64.00	385	-25		
4100	3900	42.50	286	286	6.1	460	440	64.50	390	-25		
4150	3950	43.00	289	289	6.1	465	445	65.00	395	-25		
4200	4000	43.50	292	292	6.1	470	450	65.50	400	-25		
4250	4050	44.00	295	295	6.1	475	455	66.00	405	-25		
4300	4100	44.50	298	298	6.1	480	460	66.50	410	-25		
4350	4150	45.00	301	301	6.1	485	465	67.00	415	-25		
4400	4200	45.50	304	304	6.1	490	470	67.50	420	-25		
4450	4250	46.00	307	307	6.1	495	475	68.00	425	-25		
4500	4300	46.50	310	310	6.1	500	480	68.50	430	-25		
4550	4350	47.00	313	313	6.1	505	485	69.00	435	-25		
4600	4400	47.50	316	316	6.1	510	490	69.50	440	-25		
4650	4450	48.00	319	319	6.1	515	495	70.00	445	-25		
4700	4500	48.50	322	322	6.1	520	500	70.50	450	-25		
4750	4550	49.00	325	325	6.1	525	505	71.00	455	-25		
4800	4600	49.50	328	328	6.1	530	510	71.50	460	-25		
4850	4650	50.00	331	331	6.1	535	515	72.00	465	-25		
4900	4700	50.50	334	334	6.1	540	520	72.50	470	-25		
4950	4750	51.00	337	337	6.1	545	525	73.00	475	-25		
5000	4800	51.50	340	340	6.1	550	530	73.50	480	-25		
5050	4850	52.00	343	343	6.1	555	535	74.00	485	-25		
5100	4900	52.50	346	346	6.1	560	540	74.50	490	-25		
5150	4950	53.00	349	349	6.1	565	545	75.00	495	-25		
5200	5000	53.50	352	352	6.1	570	550	75.50	500	-25		
5250	5050	54.00	355	355	6.1	575	555	76.00	505	-25		
5300	5100	54.50	358	358	6.1	580	560	76.50	510	-25		
5350	5150	55.00	361	361	6.1	585	565	77.00	515	-25		
5400	5200	55.50	364	364	6.1	590	570	77.50	520	-25		
5450	5250	56.00	367	367	6.1	595	575	78.00	525	-25		
5500	5300	56.50	370	370	6.1	600	580	78.50	530	-25		
5550	5350	57.00	373	373	6.1	605	585	79.00	535	-25		
5600	5400	57.50	376	376	6.1	610	590	79.50	540	-25		
5650	5450	58.00	379	379	6.1	615	595	80.00	545	-25		
5700	5500	58.50	382	382	6.1	620	600	80.50	550	-25		
5750	5550	59.00	385	385	6.1	625	605	81.00	555	-25		
5800	5600	59.50	388	388	6.1	630	610	81.50	560	-25		
5850	5650	60.00	391	391	6.1	635	615	82.00	565	-25		
5900	5700	60.50	394	394	6.1	640	620	82.50	570	-25		
5950	5750	61.00	397	397	6.1	645	625	83.00	575	-25		
6000	5800	61.50	400	400	6.1	650	630	83.50	580	-25		
6050	5850	62.00	403	403	6.1	655	635	84.00	585	-25		
6100	5900	62.50	406	406	6.1	660	640	84.50	590	-25		
6150	5950	63.00	409	409	6.1	665	645	85.00	595	-25		
6200	6000	63.50	412	412	6.1	670	650	85.50	600	-25		
6250	6050	64.00	415	415	6.1	675	655	86.00	605	-25		
6300	6100	64.50	418	418	6.1	680	660	86.50	610	-25		
6350	6150	65.00	421	421	6.1	685	665	87.00	615	-25		
6400	6200	65.50	424	424	6.1	690	670	87.50	620	-25		
6450	6250	66.00	427	427	6.1	695	675	88.00	625	-25		
6500	6300	66.50	430	430	6.1	700	680	88.50	630	-25		
6550	6350	67.00	433	433	6.1	705	685	89.00	635	-25		
6600	6400	67.50	436	436	6.1	710	690	89.50	640	-25		
6650	6450	68.00	439	439	6.1	715	695	90.00	645	-25		
6700	6500	68.50	442	442	6.1	720	700	90.50	650	-25		
6750	6550	69.00	445	445	6.1	725	705	91.00	655	-25		
6800	6600	69.50	448	448	6.1	730	710	91.50	660	-25		
6850	6650	70.00	451	451	6.1	735	715	92.00	665	-25		
6900	6700	70.50	454	454	6.1	740	720	92.50	670	-25		
6950	6750	71.00	457	457	6.1	745	725	93.00	675	-25		
7000	68											



Youngsters need to be equipped with a full set of financial literacy skills if they are to cope with an increasingly sophisticated financial world

Young people should learn financial literacy at school

Derek Wanless explains how teachers can improve the way children prepare for life in the real world

Should financial literacy skills be as familiar to young people as IT skills? I believe that this is a fundamental question which must be debated fully if we are to equip young people to cope with an increasingly sophisticated financial world. There are 16,000 different financial products on sale in Britain today, yet how many of the customers for them are properly equipped to know which they should buy? Individuals increasingly need the right mix of abilities and skills to be able to venture confidently into new financial products. Today, delegates are gathering at the Russell Hotel in London to debate the role of financial literacy in the school curriculum. They have been invited jointly by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and NatWest Group. This may not sound momentous, but it is the first time that either QCA or its constituent parts have jointly run a curriculum review conference in partnership with a private sector company. The purpose of the conference is to inform QCA thinking on financial literacy when it reviews the curriculum in schools in the year 2000. It will have the findings of specially commissioned research from the Demos think-tank to highlight the need for change. If the business of business is

business, then why is NatWest Group dedicating its time, expertise and resources to the conference and more widely to the issue of financial literacy? The answer is that the successful business of today and tomorrow is evolving beyond being ruled solely by simple financial measures. The business of banking rests on the successful management of risk, which in turn is crucially dependent on the skills and ability of individuals, both as customers and staff to manage money, whether that be at home or in the workplace. In a climate of constant change, we believe that financial literacy is an essential set of skills to have, not a luxury. The definition of financial literacy prepared for NatWest Group by the National Foundation for Educational Research is "the ability of individuals to make informed judgments and to take effective decisions regarding the use and management of money". This does not mean knowing what APR might mean but to have the skills to plan confidently, solve problems and take decisions when it comes to financial management. This does require knowledge, but

skills, understanding and values also play an important part in being an effective manager of money. Financial literacy does not exist in a vacuum, but must adapt and change as the world changes. The intensity of global competition and the ever-increasing speed of technological development are two pressures about which business is all too aware. Further dramatic change is inevitable within society as we approach the next millennium. This is the context that the delegates to the QCA/NatWest conference must consider. To help, we commissioned Demos to describe the potential trends that will affect the way in which financial skills are needed in the new millennium. Demos pointed out that values are changing. Younger generations are interested in personal fulfilment and less concerned with issues of security. This has meant that traditional trust in institutions has fallen while solidarity groups based on shared interests or ideals are experiencing a renaissance. This phenomenon sets the backdrop to other changes facing society. Patterns of work are changing. Companies are well aware of the technological drivers of change that are revolutionising organisational structures. Technology and competitive pressure demand knowledge workers, flatter structures and shift the emphasis from the single organisation to networks of resource producers. These changes have huge implications for the individual and for the need for financial literacy. Flexibility is embodied in reduced tenure, performance-related pay and earnings swings. Effective money management skills are a must in such an environment.

ment, much more than the old climate of steadily increased earnings. Product delivery is changing. New players are entering the field, and new distribution channels such as the Internet are likely to stimulate many more. Apart from the physical inability of individuals to absorb all this data, the need for the right mix of abilities and skills is a prerequisite to building the confidence to handle financial planning. Life cycles are changing. Acres of newspaper columns have been devoted to the demographic time bomb. In comparison, very little has been said on the very real shifts in life cycles. It is true that life expectancy is growing, but as Demos points out traditional triggers such as marriage and parenthood are becoming less and less predictable. This societal change is removing some of the traditional prompts that were associated with long-term financial strategies. This is all the more serious in a climate where flexible working means that individuals may not take charge of and pay for their lifelong learning needs. Government is changing. NatWest Group is investing considerable effort in research and consultation in financial literacy and we have already learnt a lot through our practical programme to promote financial literacy skills in young people at secondary school level. Face 2 Face with Finance. This involves simulations of real-life situations, enterprise activities and work experience. To date, 70,000 pupils and 3,000 NatWest Group staff have been involved. At the moment, financial literacy does not explicitly feature in the curriculum. We believe that it should and we welcome the opportunity to debate this with education. The Demos research reinforces my message that financial literacy skills need to form a critical part of the way that your young people are prepared for life.

The author is chief executive of NatWest Group.



Wanless: promoting skills

BUSINESS LETTERS

Employees want to know how much profit is enough

From Mr Paul H. Tipler
Sir, Richard Miles's Corporate Profile of Lloyds TSB (November 10), while stopping short of acclaiming Sir Brian Pitman as the Messiah of the banking industry, appears to have missed the fundamental shortcomings of his corporate philosophy. Lloyds TSB's approach, if emulated throughout industry, would surely cause such social and environmental disruption that the fabric of society itself would be undermined. The bank has led the way in a retreat from overseas markets, cost-cutting, horizontal and vertical integration — in such a way that staff and customer interests seem to be largely ignored. No visible ethical policy even exists. Many employees (myself included) are asking just how much profit is enough. The banking industry faces powerful challenges from, among others, Halifax, Virgin Bank and supermarkets such as Sainsbury's and Tesco, which have a much lower cost base. But to counter this with a philosophy solely aimed at maximising shareholder value, with all other legitimate objectives subjugated, will surely prove to be narrow and destructive in the extreme. Sir Brian should be commended for his honesty concerning his objective. However, at a recent Chartered Institute of Bankers' meeting in Bristol, his apparent admiration for American banks that aim to reduce their merged bank resources by up to 40 per cent was disappointing if not surprising. Though welcome, his acknowledgement that the social cost was too great for Britain was spoken with apparent regret. The bank may continue to score abysmally on ethical expression, and probably lower still on its attitude to employees. Full marks should not have been awarded for share performance achieved at such a price. Hopefully, investors in People were not aware of the full picture when recognising areas of the bank for their award in October 1996. Yours faithfully, PAUL H. TIPLER (National Council Member, Movement for Christian Democracy), 3 Highfield Grove, Horfield, Bristol.

From Mr J. V. Buckland
Sir, Mr David Asken's letter (November 13) rightly points out BA's mistake with their new colours. But they are only repeating their past mistakes. In the 1950s, when it was BOAC (Better on a Camel, the schoolboys of that era decided) it took the Union Jack off the front of its brochures because it might upset some of the passengers. Whether profits increased has never been admitted, but it was not long before the national colours returned. But what does one do with managers who persist in repeating past blunders? Yours sincerely, J. V. BUCKLAND, 28 Deside Avenue, Fishbourne, West Sussex.

BA repeats history in removing the colours

A brush with Van Gogh

Making Masterpieces
BBC2, 7.30pm
It had probably never struck most of us before that Impressionist painting would have been difficult, perhaps impossible, before the 19th century. The reason, revealed by Neil MacGregor, Director of the National Gallery, lies in the paint. Before Van Gogh and Monet all paint had to be mixed on the spot, which ruled out spontaneity. But by the 1880s paint could be bought ready-mixed in tubes and artists could capture the transient moment that was at the root of the Impressionist method. Also, chemistry had extended the range of colours. Van Gogh could place an order for 18 shades of chrome yellow. MacGregor's series continues to demonstrate how much available materials contribute to the look and style of a painting and after tonight's film we shall never look at a Van Gogh, or for that matter a Titian or a Rembrandt, in the same way again.



Bengal tiger at home (BBC2, 8.30pm)

Land of the Tiger
BBC2, 8.30pm
The land is the Indian sub-continent which takes in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as well as India itself and stretches further than from London to Istanbul. As the title implies, this is a wildlife series and although the tiger features prominently it shares top billing with many other stars of the natural world. Our guide is Valmik Thapar, an enthusiastic Indian naturalist, and his words are supported by superb footage. Episode one visits Jungle Book country and searches for real-life equivalents of Kipling's animals. Here, sure enough, are wolf, bear, jackal, monkey, snake — and tiger. Much of the film shows creatures trying to kill each other, but there are tender moments. Thapar emphasises the threat from poachers and the encroachment of the human population.

reigning champion, talks about going for the kill while Paul O'Hara, one of his challengers, is not above knocking an opponent off the track to ensure victory. Upsetting a few people, he reckons, is part of the fun. That the men's (and they are all men) families think they are mad and should be doing something more adult with their spare time cuts no ice whatever. Meanwhile, down in Wales, Richard Hardric has been forced to race his little cars on his drive after his wife banned them from the house. "She thinks I'm a complete idiot," he says.

Movers and Shakers: Car Wars
Channel 4, 8.00pm
If you had the idea that Scalextric racing car sets were just for small boys, this jolly film will tell you otherwise. The members of the Wood Green Scalextric Club may still be small boys at heart but it is many years since they were in short trousers. And do they take it seriously, Paul Harwood.

Equinox: The Day the Earth Was Hit
Channel 4, 9.00pm
A fireball which exploded over Siberia in June 1908 continues to fascinate scientists around the globe. One thousand times greater than the Hiroshima bomb, the explosion set fire to a vast area of forest and convinced local people that the end of the world had come. The shock waves reached as far as Britain. One man, now 96, was there and describes what happened as if it were yesterday. But the main thrust of the film is to chart attempts to determine what the meteorite was (an asteroid or a comet?) and where it came from. There has been no shortage of theories and these have been added to since scientists from the West were finally allowed to investigate the site. Computer technology has been recruited for the task, but the mystery is still proving hard to crack. *Waymark*

RADIO CHOICE

Dear Diary
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)
Rick Stein is for me the best of the television chefs because although the medium necessarily promotes personalities, Stein does a better job than some of keeping the food at the top of the agenda. The same is true of his radio series. In a new series of *Dear Diary*, Stein visits Australia as a judge in a restaurant of the year competition. Stein, whose connections with Australia go back a long way, admits the trip sounded like an irresistible junket but it turns out to be a stressed attempt to resist pressure from various individuals, including food critics, who think that only their favourite choice is a suitable recipient of the award. The path is smoothed with Australian music and poetry.

The Monday Play: A State Maccabre
Radio 4, 7.45pm
This is a powerful hour which at times has the ring of documentary, so convincing is Pearce Elliott's script. The setting is Northern Ireland during 1996, the summer of violence in Drumree. The central character is Tommy, who lies dying in a Belfast hospital after a petrol bomb has destroyed his house. Tommy, a Roman Catholic, is reflecting on a life numbered by violence when he is visited by an RUC constable, a Protestant. This visit has a profound effect on both men, for their meeting brings out the traumatic condition of Tommy and serves to swing, on a light of understanding for the police officer, James Ellis, still perhaps best known on the mainland for *2 Cops*, and Sean Kearns are outstanding in the lead roles. *Peter Barnard*

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley. Includes 12.00pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 2.00 Newsbeat 7.30 The Club 8.30 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Charlie Jordan 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Spot 7.30 The Handmaid's Tale 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Praise for Thought 8.15 Pop on the Line 8.00 News 8.15 News in German (845 only) 8.25 World Business Report 8.15 News 8.30 News in German 8.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Jazzmaster 12.00 News 12.05pm World Service Roundup 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 1.30 News 2.05 Outlook 3.00 World News (845 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 The Ed Stewart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today (845 only) News in German 4.45 Sports Roundup 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Cross Questioned: News in German (845 only) 7.00 News 7.41 Outlook 7.25 Praise for Thought 7.30 Sports Roundup 7.45 Newsday 8.00 News 8.05 World Service Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Heritage 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Hit List 12.00 Newsday 12.05pm Westway 12.15 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Westway 3.45 Newsday 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.30 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.00 John Peel 1.30am Dave Thewler 3.00 Ed Stewart 3.30 John Peel 4.00am Newsday 4.30 Sports Roundup 4.45 Sports Roundup 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Sports Roundup 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Sports Roundup 7.45 Sports Roundup 8.00 Newsday 8.30 Sports Roundup 8.45 Sports Roundup 9.00 Newsday 9.30 Sports Roundup 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 Sports Roundup 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Sports Roundup 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 Newsday 12.30 Sports Roundup 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Sports Roundup 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Sports Roundup 2.45 Sports Roundup 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Sports Roundup 3.45 Sports Roundup 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Sports Roundup 4.45 Sports Roundup 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Sports Roundup 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Sports Roundup 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Sports Roundup 7.45 Sports Roundup 8.00 Newsday 8.30 Sports Roundup 8.45 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High on the brow and tall in the saddle

It was the sixth weekend before Christmas. You could tell that because all sorts of new series were conveniently starting six-part runs and because it couldn't quite decide what sort of weekend to be. Was it still the class and quality of autumn, or the cheap, cheerful and commercial that traditionally signals the onset of winter? Julian Clary, Lily Savage and a new series of *The Fast Show* thought they knew.

But they had reckoned without Sir Isaiah Berlin, Julius Caesar and the Battle of Hastings. For once in my reviewing life I was going highbrow, safe in the knowledge that the worst that could happen was to fall asleep halfway through a Michael Ignatieff introduction and suddenly discover it was Monday.

The two-part tribute to Berlin, heavily stamped "not to be shown in his lifetime", arrived late in the schedules — late not in terms

of last-minute but also, well, late. Still sober? That was the great unasked question as *The Making of a Hedgehog* (BBC2) got under way at hours of Friday and Saturday night normally reserved for frivolity rather than philosophy. You needed to be.

Both films were the product of one long interview but they were divided by more than the Second World War. Friday night, from the moment he over-elaborately introduced his subject as "the last great Jewish intellectual of the 20th century", was the torturing of Ignatieff. This he discovered early: "You then went to St Paul's School?" was men wide: "Well, not forget, I had very little imagination." I realised I was going to enjoy this.

So it proved, but goodness it was hard work. One of the reasons for this became more apparent on Saturday, when Ignatieff, having

mastered the art of nodding and shaking his head at the same time, had a much better time of it. As they discussed liberalism, pluralism and other -isms I had never heard of, excerpts from Berlin's broadcasts in the 1950s and 1960s showed how that distinctive voice had changed. The fluency was still there but the precision had faded with age, making way for something deeper, darker and occasionally difficult to understand.

But if one or two punchlines were lost (Ignatieff nodded and smiled encouragingly, knowing the moment had passed) and one or two I was not clever enough to understand, there were enough that made it through to make this an enjoyable, if rather tiring, 90 minutes. I feel somewhat embarrassed about warning quite so enthusiastically to the story about Churchill confusing Irving Berlin with Isaiah (so much for my

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

scholarly pretensions) but less so about logical positivism which Berlin said he didn't believe in at all but found convenient because it swept away a lot of tedious metaphysics and all those second-rate philosophers who couldn't do it. Ignatieff smiled. I emphasised with the second-rate.

My colleague Melvyn Bragg is fond of a scholarly chat. His problem on last night's South

Bank Show was getting one. The subject was Iain Banks (or Iain M. Banks in science-fiction mode), a writer from a generation reluctant to take anything too seriously, least of all themselves.

For the first ten or 15 minutes, Tony Knox's film was dominated by two images. The first was "the vast and ruddy frame" of the Forth Railway Bridge, that Banks both lives by and writes about. The second was of Bragg, desperately trying to get his subject to make himself serious. For a while it looked as though the best he would achieve was Banks's claim that his main aim in writing science fiction was "to reclaim the moral high ground of space-opera for the Left". Bragg looked like a man who didn't altogether approve of science fiction.

Then came the breakthrough — the word "dystopia" (I had to look it up). Bragg looked realigned. Suddenly Banks was away, his

intellect finally unleashed. "There is a religion around now that makes sense, it's called science," Bragg's eyes lit up. Did somebody say science? After that, the pair chatted cleverly ever after, while Peter Capaldi, one of the stars of the marvellous television adaptation of *The Crow Road*, read extracts that intrigued more than they immediately tempted.

A tricky opening ten minutes is almost a defining element of highbrow television. It certainly took that long to get used to Brian Cox's florid narration to *I, Caesar* (BBC2, Saturday). But then it became clear why Cox was giving quite so much. The narration was everything to Phil Grabsky's gripping retelling of the story of Julius Caesar. Apart from some stone reliefs, the odd goblet of Plutarch and a handful of erudite academics, he had nothing else. That this

austere combination produced such watchable television was as improbable as it was impressive. No problems with the opening ten minutes to *War Walks* (BBC2, Friday) which suggested more populist ambitions, a fact quickly confirmed by the sight of Professor Richard Holmes, the military historian, riding a medieval warhorse. Name of Thatch, apparently.

While Caesar came, saw but couldn't be bothered to conquer Britain, this was the story of how a Norman duke did so, 1,100 years and assorted Dark Ages later. Holmes is an accomplished storyteller, but what he really excels at is convincing you that the outcome of the Battle of Hastings is in doubt, when you've known from the age of eight that it isn't. Eventually, however, not even he could prevent nice King Harold getting one in the eye. The rest, as they say, is tapestry.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (94814)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (89272)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (5648814)
9.25 Style Challenge (5668949)
9.50 Killy (7) (5328851)
10.30 Change That from Tattler Park Country Estate in Cheshire (4834833)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (7) (7843253)
11.15 Real Rooms (289794)
12.00 News (7) and weather (8233185)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5617663)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (252982)
1.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (8789)
1.30 Regional News (84373494)
1.40 The Weather Show (5831659)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (44386727)
2.55 Quinny (7) (2946272)
2.55 Women's Best of Blakely Blank (783759)
3.30 Playdays (8104017) 3.55 Enchanted Lands (123104) 4.00 Road to Nowhere (8083814) 4.15 Noah's Island (7818365) 4.40 Goosebumps (8218901) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (8454340) 5.15 Blue Peter — An End Byron Special (7) (8303340)
5.35 Neighbours (7) (378038)
6.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (291)
6.30 Regional News (543)
7.00 This Is Your Life Michael Aspel invites another personality to take a trip down memory lane (7) (7291)
7.30 Here and Now: Top Range Chris Choi investigates the national shortage of Teletubbies toys which has enraged customers up and down the country and driven parents to desperate lengths (7) (727)
8.00 EastEnders Ian's life is turned upside down (7) (3811)
8.30 Spic: Beth Coates arranges for Ashley to meet an attractive divorcee (2745)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (1088)
9.30 Hotel The Adelphi's house manager, Katy, is left in the lurch by the departure of a receptionist (7) (58393)
10.00 Panorama: The People's Monarchy? What has the Palace learnt from the public reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales? (7) (58746)
10.40 On Side John Inverdale presents the sports magazine, Tonight, he talks Formula One racing with Damon Hill and new learn boss Eddie Jordan, rugby with outspoken Aussie David Campese and tennis with Greg Rusedski (7) (458291)
11.30 Film '97 with Barry Norman Brad Pitt's latest outing, Seven Years in Tibet, about an Austrian mountaineer who strikes up a relationship with the Dalai Lama, plus reviews of <i>Keep the Aspidochelone</i> , <i>Requiem for a Dream</i> and <i>La Strada</i> (7) (52406)
12.00 Last Evidence (1979) Suspense thriller with Roy Scheider as a CIA operative whose wife is killed in an ambush, leading him to believe that someone wants him dead. Directed by Jonathan Demme (7) (496608) Followed by Weather
1.40 BBC News 24 (5501321)

BBC2
6.00am Education: History — What is its Future? (48123) 6.30 An English Education (7) (50272)
7.00 See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and weather (89891)
7.15 Teleshopping (4917524) 7.40 Sports: Adventures (221765) 8.05 Blue Peter (2871562) 8.30 Music-a-Grams (2801369) 8.45 Harry and the Hendersons (5957543) 9.10 Spanish Globo (1820494) 9.15 Cienfuegos (2149224) 9.30 Whodunnit Pictures (466017) 9.45 Storyline (445272)
10.00 Teleshopping (51524) 10.30 Sports and Pictures (8783271) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (371778) 11.00 Look and Read (1583920) 11.20 Zig Zag (3357982) 11.40 Landmarks (908271) 12.00 Modern Studies (8723591) 12.20pm Job Bank (823543)
12.30 Working Lunch (83038) 1.00 The Greedydusans (78954274) 1.05 Hairy Jerry (1331085) 1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour (804456) 2.10 Going, Going, Home (82474307) 2.40 News (7) (3518458) 2.45 Clash of the Titans: Seb Cox and Steve Overt (7) (707183) 3.25 News (7) (3911582) 3.30 The Village (949)
4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (455) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (7) (723388) 4.55 Esther (589543) 5.30 Today's the Day (820)
6.00 The Simpsons (7) (449524)
6.20 Basketball: Galactica (7) (727265)
7.10 The Car's the Star: The Chevrolet Corvette (7) (728307)
7.30 Making Masterpieces Neil MacGregor traces the origins of impressionism (7) (369)
8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor: The causes and treatments for impotence, the risks and benefits of cervical cancer screening and a new hearing test for babies (7) (723)
8.30 The Tiger: A new series about the diverse wildlife of India's Kanha region (7) (182104)
9.20 Trade Secrets: Professional bakers reveal tricks of their trade (7) (205433)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (7) (723272)
10.00 I'm Alan Partridge Alan manages to lose the entire farming population of Norfolk (7) (57128)
10.30 Newsnight (7) (823678) 11.15 Oldie TV (583036) 11.55 Weather (48017) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (30470)
12.00am Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (974018) 12.45 Architecture in Britain (804215) 1.10 The Victorian House (883739) 1.35 Victorian Decorating (8042870) 1.50 Modern Languages (83031) 2.00 Greek Language and People 1-2/French Experience (50215) 5.00 Business and Training (18437)

HTV
6.00am GMTV (4018104)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (7) (5541389)
9.55 Regional News (7) (6088088)
10.00 The Times, the Place (88878)
10.30 This Morning (7) (48337543)
12.20 pm Regional News (236368)
12.30 News (7) and weather (288307)
12.55 High Road (2263098) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (2331861)
1.50 A Summer Story (1988) with Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby. Romantic drama directed by Piers Haggard (8536123)
3.20 News (7) (8916017)
3.25 Regional News (7) (8915388)
3.30 Tots TV (3830038) 3.40 The Slow North (125388) 3.50 Wolves, Wolves and Giants (801524) 4.05 Sooty and Co (7) (3015838) 4.25 Men in Black (7) (3015758) 4.50 How 2 (7) (8207253)
5.10 WALE: The House (7) (8867291)
5.10 We Are Seven (8667291)
5.40 News (7) and weather (511814)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (355511)
6.25 Regional Weather (249020)
6.30 Regional News (7) (611)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (9659)



Elizabeth Bradley as Maud (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street Maud devises a plan to have her revenge on Fred, Gail and Martin learn Nick's secret (7) (123)

8.00 World in Action As Gypsies from the Czech Republic and Slovakia wait in Dover to hear whether they have been granted political asylum, the programme reveals why they are desperate to leave. Inside those who have already arrived and records the growing hostility in Dover to the refugees (7) (8307)

8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich Fast and furious game show (7) (7814)

9.00 Gold: The Catch Card faces police interrogation after Paul's attack puts him in hospital, and uses his enticed absence to get to the bottom of the activities at the factory (7) (8038)

10.00 News (7) and weather (51949)

10.30 Regional News (7) (897655)

10.40 Nash Bridges Nash's classic car is stolen (7) (188307)

11.40 Highlander MacLeod and Charlie come to the aid of a native American who claims that a mine carrier is trying to steal her son (7) (112523)

12.00am Football Extra (5430437)

1.40 War of the Worlds (8835437)

2.35 Rocknrolla (7) (2146087)

3.30 Gold's Gift (7) (3005895)

4.25 Curdie Calks (4052995)

4.35 World in Action (7) (7) (30842944)

5.00 Coronation Street (7) (75128)

CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2263098)
1.50 Blue Heelers (5055254)
2.50-3.20 High Road (3804853)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (867291)
6.25-7.00 Central News (742185)
11.40 Charlie Grace (118253)
1.00am Late and Loud (5955503)
2.40 ITV Sport Classics (6432437)
2.45 Film Emergency Call (186202)
4.15 Central Jobline '97 (136321)
4.50 Eastern Mix (9354769)
5.20 Astor Eye (3209012)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 12.30 Illuminations (2293639)
12.55 Home and Away (2263098)
1.25 High Road (79358630)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (5613543)
2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (8044569)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (867291)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (52523)
10.30 Westcountry News (262248)
10.45 Nash Bridges (174727)
11.40 New York News (118253)
MERIDIAN
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2263098)
1.55 Countdown to Christmas (5840494)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2942456)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (867291)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (559)
6.30-7.00 Perfectly Pets (611)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (262348)
10.45 Nash Bridges (174727)
11.40 The Golf Show (147927)
12.00am Meridian Motorsport (1051499)
5.00 FreeScreen (75128)
ANGLIA
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2263098)
1.55 Homecoming (9779154)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2942456)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (867291)
6.25-7.00 Anglia Weather (742185)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (262348)
10.45 Is That It? (897758)
11.15 Nash Bridges (411920)
12.00am Fair Cops (1051499)

Starts: 6.00 Sesame Street (57524) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (82382) 9.00 Yagellon (150299)

11.30 The Pulse (8901) 12.00 Sesame Street (41562) 12.30pm Monty Williams (78104)

1.00 Slot Meltrinn (1802730) 1.15 Mimi (1101232) 1.30 The Crimean War (72659)

2.30 Widescreen from National Geographic (24933) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (807) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (524) 4.30 Coltrane's Piano and Automobiles (568) 5.00 5 Pump (880883) 5.15 Phil (546185) 5.30 Countdown (388) 6.00 Newsworld (72543)

6.10 Heno (843553) 6.30 Probal y Cem (883287) 7.25 Byrd Ar Backus (49824) 8.00 Rhyne Felt O' Pumas (8948) 8.30 Newsworld (5456) 9.00 Cutting Edge (4678) 10.00 Sports (747012) 11.00 The Real Holiday Show (31369) 11.35 The American Football Big Match (130368) 12.50am-2.30 Film: Victims of Murder (192875)

6.00 Doug 6.30 Newsworld 6.50 8.00 CBS 10.00 Women's House 10.30 Babe 11.00 Magic School Bus 11.30 Bonanza 11.50 12.00 Pedigree Bear etc 12.30pm Late Red Tails etc 1.00 D'South 1.30 Little Bear Stories 2.00 Animal Zone 2.30 CBS 3.30 Rhythm 4.00 Angry Beavers 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Seder Seder 5.30 Kamen and Kat 6.00 Sabina the Teenage When 6.30 Masha 7.00 Close

6.00pm Sports Crossing 12.30 Ready or Not 12.40m The Big Valley 2.30m The Big Valley 3.30m The Big Valley 4.30m The Big Valley 5.30m The Big Valley 6.30m The Big Valley 7.30m The Big Valley 8.30m The Big Valley 9.30m The Big Valley 10.30m The Big Valley 11.30m The Big Valley 12.30m The Big Valley 1.00m The Big Valley 1.30m The Big Valley 1.60m The Big Valley 1.90m The Big Valley 2.20m The Big Valley 2.50m The Big Valley 2.80m The Big Valley 3.10m The Big Valley 3.40m The Big Valley 3.70m The Big Valley 4.00m The Big Valley 4.30m The Big Valley 4.60m The Big Valley 4.90m The Big Valley 5.20m The Big Valley 5.50m The Big Valley 5.80m The Big Valley 6.10m The Big Valley 6.40m The Big Valley 6.70m The Big Valley 7.00m The Big Valley 7.30m The Big Valley 7.60m The Big Valley 7.90m The Big Valley 8.20m The Big Valley 8.50m The Big Valley 8.80m The Big Valley 9.10m The Big Valley 9.40m The Big Valley 9.70m The Big Valley 10.00m The Big Valley 10.30m The Big Valley 10.60m The Big Valley 10.90m 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